

# FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

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How the Danish welfare state is changing, Page 3

## NEWS SUMMARY

### GENERAL

#### Militias escalate Beirut fighting

U.S. Marines in the peacekeeping force based around Beirut's battered airport were put on the highest state of alert in the face of intense artillery duels involving rival militias and the Lebanese army.

#### Missile talks resume

The U.S. and Soviet Union resume European missile talks in Geneva today, as the major East-West row over the shooting down of a South Korean airliner continues.

#### Pope's message

Pope John Paul denounced homosexuality, premarital sex, artificial birth control, abortion and campaigns for the ordination of women priests, in a message to 25 American bishops visiting the Vatican.

#### Black union banned

The government of the nominally-independent tribal homeland of the Chokwe has banned the South African Allied Workers Union.

#### Weinberger visit

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. Defense Secretary, leaves Washington today to inspect military forces in Panama, El Salvador and Honduras.

#### Swedish choice

The Swedish Liberal Party is expected to elect Mr Bengt Westerberg, a former under-secretary of state for industry and economic affairs, as its new leader at a party congress next month.

#### Shamir hit

Negotiations over the preservation of Israel's coalition Government have run into difficulties, despite an agreement in principle by the coalition partners to support Mr Yitzhak Shamir for Prime Minister.

#### Pakistani arrests

Armed police arrested seven members of the banned Pakistan People's Party when they returned to Pakistan to lead a campaign for democracy in their native Punjab province.

#### Sahara killings

The Polisario Front, fighting for independence in the western Sahara, claimed its guerrillas killed 307 Moroccan and wounded more than 400 in an attack near Smara in the disputed territory.

#### Soviet escapee

The Swiss Government has applied to the West German authorities for the return of Yuri Vashchenko, a Soviet soldier captured in Afghanistan who escaped from internment near Zug.

#### Irish abortion verdict

More than two-thirds of Irish voters will support a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion in a referendum on Wednesday, according to an opinion poll.

#### Briefly...

Four Indian opposition parties have formed an alliance.

Chilean exiles and Catalan leftists occupied Barcelona's Chilean consulate marking the 10th anniversary of Chile's military coup.

John Gilpin, the British choreographer married to Princess Antoinette of Monaco, died in London.

### BUSINESS

#### Philips 'to lift stake in Grundig'

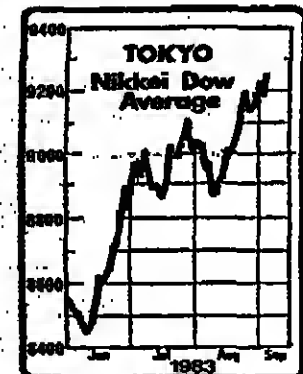
GRUNDIG, the West German television and video recorder producer, expects Philips, the Dutch-based electrical concern to increase its stake in the company from 34.5 per cent to a blocking minority of 25 per cent in the near future, and possibly to later gain a majority shareholding.

DOLLAR fell in London to DM 2.834 (DM 2.695), to SwFr 2.177 (SwFr 2.188), FFf 8.0775 (FFf 8.1025) and to Y246 (Y246.75). Its trade-weighted index was 129.1 (128.4).

STERLING rose 45 points from Friday's close against the dollar to \$1.5. It slipped against European currencies to DM 4.0275 (DM 4.0325), SwFr 3.265 (SwFr 3.275) and FFf 12.11 (FFf 12.115). It also closed lower against the yen at ¥369.25. Its trade-weighted index was 85.1 (85.3).

GOLD rose \$1.75 an ounce from Friday's close in London to \$419.375.

LONDON: The FT Industrial Ordinary Index finished 74 higher at 7132 on subdued trading influenced by the U.S. holiday. Longer-dated gilts made the biggest gains, ranging to 1% in some high-coupon stocks. The shorts were rarely more than 1/4% dearer, while index-linked issues were slightly higher.



TOKYO: Share prices rose in Tokyo yesterday, encouraged by economic news from the U.S., according to stockbrokers. The Nikkei Dow index put on 27.44 points to close at a record high of 9,252.21. Stock Exchange index rose 3.35 to 682.8. Report Page 21, leading prices, other exchanges Page 24.

WALL STREET: U.S. and Canadian markets were closed for the Labour Day holiday.

WORLD TRADE volume fell about 2 per cent last year and a joint international initiative to liberalise trade policy is needed to revive it, according to a report from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

U.S. AGRICULTURE officials say one of the country's worst droughts has caused a multi-billion dollar farming disaster.

JAPAN is to explore the possibility of buying Alaskan oil when the law banning its export expires at the end of this month.

SWISSAIR, whose net earnings dropped by 29 per cent last year to SwFr 38.5m (\$17.6m) expects to return to the 1981 profits figure of SwFr 54.3m this year.

DANISH manufacturing industry's delivery volume was 5 per cent higher in the three months May-July, compared with the previous three-month period and 4 per cent higher than for the same period last year.

JAPANESE consumer electronics sales to West Germany rose 9 per cent to DM 1.11bn (\$411m) in the first half of this year with West Germany taking 37 per cent of Japanese video and audio products exported to the European Community.

## Soviets link jet uproar to cruise deployment

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN LONDON AND DAVID HOUSEGO IN PARIS

THE SOVIET Union last night accused Washington of fanning hysteria over the shooting down of a South Korean 747 airliner in Soviet airspace in order to facilitate the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe.

A statement by the Tass news agency said "this deliberate provocation is called upon, in accordance with Washington's plans, to bring about a further aggravation of the international situation, to obstruct arms limitation talks and create such conditions whereby the United States would manage to attain military superiority over the Soviet Union so as to dictate its will to it."

The Tass statement came a few hours before President Ronald Reagan was due to make a broadcast outlining the steps which the U.S. proposed to take over the incident and followed news that the planned visit to Paris of Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, had been postponed.

Last night, Canada became the first of the U.S. allies to react to Washington's call for retaliatory action against the Soviet Union. It suspended all flights into the country by the Soviet airline Aeroflot for 90 days.

The latest Soviet accusation contrasts with U.S. statements to date that the U.S. has no intention of breaking off the Geneva arms control talks as their importance transcends the rise in international tension provoked by the Korean aircraft incident. It also contradicts an earlier statement by the chief So-

## German economy returns to growth in first half

By Jonathan Carr in Bonn

THE WEST GERMAN economy is growing again in real terms - after allowing for inflation - following two successive years of decline. The latest unemployment figures are also mildly encouraging.

According to the Federal statistical office yesterday, gross national product (GNP) rose by just 0.1 per cent in the first half of this year, against the corresponding period in 1982.

The increase is more impressive than it appears at first sight. Real GNP fell by 0.4 per cent in the first quarter but there was a relatively sharp rise of 0.7 per cent in the second.

The figures indicate that the Government's forecast for economic growth this year - "about zero in real terms" - will be too cautious. Several economic institutes are already predicting that the 1983 growth figure will be between 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent in real terms.

Jobless figures, also released yesterday, show that the number of unemployed fell last month by 6,000 to 2.2m. This is the first time the total has fallen in August for four years.

Despite the slight drop in the total figure, the unemployment rate (jobless as a percentage of the dependent labour force) remained at the July level of 8.9 per cent.

Moreover, the average number of unemployed in the first eight months totals 2.3m - about half a million more than in the same period of last year.

Evidence of the mild upturn in the economy also emerges in latest industrial production figures, showing a seasonally adjusted increase of 3 per cent in June-July, against April-May.

Despite these encouraging signs, there are some big caveats, especially the weakness of export demand and the gradual rise in interest rates.

The visible trade surplus in the first seven months totalled DM 24.3m (\$940) - nearly DM 4m less than in January-July 1982. West-Germany's traditional deficit on "invisibles" is, however, smaller than usual, implying that the current account surplus for the whole year may be slightly bigger than last year's DM 8.1bn.

## EEC says US steel deal favours rivals

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN steel exporters claim that South Korean and Latin American competitors have achieved startling gains at their expense on the U.S. market because of a serious snag in an EEC agreement which voluntarily limits exports to the U.S.

Eurofer, the EEC-wide steel producers' club, has asked the European Commission to open consultations with Washington on the matter.

In the first seven months of this year total steel imports fell to 19 per cent of the U.S. market, from 22 per cent last year. During this period, non-EEC and non-Japanese producers increased their share of U.S. imports to 51.4 per cent, from 36 per cent last year.

The agreement reached last October restricts EEC steel exports to the U.S. from November 1, 1982 to the end of 1983. An export licensing system planned to reduce EEC sales to 8 per cent below their 1981 level.

The snag which has arisen is embarrassing for Data Resources Inc. (DRI), the independent U.S. consultants, who were employed to provide rolling estimates of U.S. steel consumption for 10 categories of carbon steel.

Under the agreement, the ceilings on EEC exports for each steel category are fixed as a proportion of anticipated U.S. consumption.

## Sinclair increases sales and profits

BY GUY DE JONGHERS IN LONDON

SINCLAIR Research, the UK personal computer manufacturer which raised £13.8m (\$20.4m) through a private placement to February, yesterday reported sharp increases in both profits and turnover for the year to March 31.

Pre-tax profit rose to £14m from £8.5m the previous year, while turnover doubled to £54.5m from £27.2m. The company, founded in 1979, has declared its first dividend, of 1p per share.

Sir Clive Sinclair, chairman and majority shareholder, said in the annual report that the results were "quite encouraging", but admitted that a fierce price-cutting war in the U.S. had led to lower than expected sales of Sinclair machines, which

But the consumption estimates which DRI produced last October for the period November 1 1982 to December 1983 proved to be far too high.

They have recently been revised downwards by between 3.1 per cent for hot rolled steel and 36.6 per cent for steel rails, forcing several European producers to cut back on their planned shipments between now and the end of the year.

It is these revisions which have brought the protest from Eurofer and the request that the European Commission take the matter up in Washington.

DRI has acknowledged that its initial forecasts of U.S. consumption were based on variables which were "askew". It claims that its latest figures are as accurate as they can be.

The EEC producers have their doubts, not least because of the windfall which the U.S. restraint agreements with the EEC and Japan appear to be delivering to South Korean and Latin American steel makers.

One source close to Eurofer said yesterday that the EEC producers were not calling the deal into question. But the calculating errors were creating difficulties for planning production in Europe and clearly U.S. producers were not benefiting as much as they should be from EEC and Japanese restraint, the source said.

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## British unions set to change course

By Our Labour Staff in Blackpool

THE BRITISH trade union movement was yesterday poised to introduce major changes in its relationship with the Conservative Government.

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) will decide today finally whether to enter into talks with the Government on its planned labour legislation, amid growing signs of a marked swing away from the isolated stance of recent years.

Union leaders of the centre and right are now convinced that the major changes in TUC policy are certain to be implemented this week at the annual assembly of the TUC Congress at Blackpool.

Faced with Government proposals for sweeping democratic reform of union structures, the TUC Congress looks certain to endorse calls for a complete revaluation of the movement's role.

Mr Frank Chapple, general secretary of the electricians' union and this year's Congress chairman, told the opening session yesterday: "The TUC has a duty to argue with the Government and to build a partnership that can revitalise Britain."

"We cannot contract out of this responsibility or behave like some obscure religious sect that insists on not talking to non-believers," Mr Chapple, a former Communist, but now an outspoken right wing opponent of extremism, was heard largely in thoughtful silence broken only by occasional barracking.

Before the Congress opened Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, made it clear that unions at Blackpool would be deciding the short-term future of the TUC. He insisted that they had to be ready to face up to five years of "hostile" Conservative Government and its planned reforms of the union movement.

Mr Chapple told delegates: "Threats to destroy elected government are not only infantile, but they are also a dangerous boomerang, alienating us from our own members as well as threatening the only type of society that guarantees our own freedom."

Full employment looked unlikely for the remainder of this century, but something had to be done. "We need a range of policies to reduce unemployment. We have to encourage greater industrial consensus."

Continued on Page 12

## Mitterrand moves to calm union unrest ahead of budget

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

FRANCE'S President Francois Mitterrand will hold talks with labour leaders this week amid signs of a revival of labour and social tensions in the country.

Two major industrial disputes in the car and paper industries are already turning into important tests of the attitude of the trade unions and of the Communist party to the Socialist-Communist coalition government.

In their talks with President Mitterrand, union leaders are also expected to express their anxieties over the Government's plan for a further tightening of fiscal and budgetary policies, expected in the budget later this month.

The French Communist Party has already announced it intends to make unemployment its main issue this autumn. But so far both the Communists and the pro-Communist CGT union, whose secretary M Henri Krauss is to see President Mitterrand today, have been relatively restrained in their public statements.

But the union leadership is again coming under pressure from its

members in some of the country's more troubled industrial sectors.

In the car industry, the Peugeot group's traditionally strife-torn Citroen car plant of Aulnay, near Paris, was still shut by labour unrest yesterday. The plant, hit by disputes since it reopened last Thursday after the summer holidays, has lost production of 800 cars a day for three consecutive working days.

The problems reflect dismay at the Peugeot group's decision to lay-off nearly 7,400 workers.

The other industrial dispute causing friction between the labour movement and the Government involves the troubled paper company, La Chapelle-Darblay. The CGT union is fiercely opposing a Government rescue plan which involves laying off 1,500 of the 2,000 workers and passing control of the Rouen-based papermaker in Parenco, the leading Dutch paper group.

Complicating the issue is the fact that the French paper company is in the parliamentary constituency of M. Laurent Fabius, the Industry Minister.

Other important and potentially divisive issues are coming to a

head, the unions are particularly concerned by the threat of lay-offs in the steel, textiles and coal industries.

At this stage, M Mitterrand and the Government do not appear willing to deviate from their tighter economic policies, and the President will clearly seek reassurance from the union leaders this week that they will not rock the boat. Whether they co-operate will largely depend on events in coming weeks with the build-up towards the important Social Security Council elections in October and the Socialist Party congress.

Despite some improvement in the opinion polls, the Socialists suffered a setback in the first round of local elections in Dreux, near the cathedral city of Chartres, this weekend. They had won the elections at Dreux by barely eight votes in March, but the contest had to be re-run after the Socialist candidate stepped down.

A significant aspect of the poll was the sharp advance of the National Front's candidate who won more than 18 per cent of the vote.

La reentrée, Page 12

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### Poland's motorists face petrol cut

By Christopher Bobinski in Warsaw

POLAND'S 3m private motorists face a cut in their meagre petrol ration in October-November, reflecting the country's continuing fuel problems, which are unlikely to abate in the foreseeable future.

The authorities have found that without a ration cut they will have a shortfall of 200,000 tonnes of petrol for private consumers compared with planned supplies of 1.6m tonnes this year.

According to the *Slowo Powszechne* newspaper, the monthly petrol ration of 45 litres for larger cars and the 30 litres for the small ubiquitous Fiat 126P is likely to be cut by a third as a result.

Rationing is helping to keep down consumption but the system is notoriously leaky, with motorists returning from holiday reporting widespread willingness to pump attendants to top tanks up at black market prices.

Difficulties seem fated to continue, with plans for delivery of petrol to private consumers due to suffer a slight drop next year, and a return to this year's level in 1985.

Meanwhile, sales of cars are set at around 200,000 next year and the year after that, and the new registrations will put further strain on scarce supplies.

Poland imports almost all of its crude oil from the Soviet Union which has maintained supplies at a steady annual 13m tonnes since 1980.

That was the last year Poland had sufficient hard currency to buy crude oil elsewhere and additional purchases of oil outside Comecon next year and in 1985 are intended by planners to be devoted to industrial usage.

### Soviet peace group members seized

MOSCOW—Four members of an unofficial Soviet peace group were seized by police yesterday when they went to the British Embassy to collect a letter from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, British Prime Minister, a spokesman for the group said.

The four had been picked up as they approached the embassy compound and taken away for questioning to a nearby militia post, he added.

They had an appointment to pick up Mrs Thatcher's letter in reply to a note they sent her in June complaining about the treatment of anti-nuclear demonstrators in Britain.

The so-called "Group of Trust" was established last year. Most of its members have been detained for varying periods by police and one is now in prison.

### Second bid to right rig hotel platform starts

By Fay Gjerster in Oslo

THE SECOND Norwegian attempt to right the Alexander Kielland hotel platform started yesterday, after several days' delay caused by last-minute technical problems.

The contracting company in charge, Stolt Nielsen Seaway, plan to rotate the rig through 40 degrees, initially—an operation expected to take about 24 hours—before pausing for about a day to secure it to two powerful crane barges which will help regulate its further rotation.

If all goes smoothly thereafter, it could be righted by Sunday.

Meanwhile, oil production from the giant Anglo-Norwegian Statfjord field in the North Sea was threatened by a strike of catering workers which started at the weekend.

The strike, which lacked union backing, is in protest at lay-offs resulting from the expiry of a company's catering contract.

## EUROPEAN NEWS

### Sweden's Liberals seeking to restore fortunes with new head

BY KEVIN DONE, NORDIC CORRESPONDENT, IN STOCKHOLM

THE SWEDISH Liberal Party, Folkpartiet, is expected to elect Mr Bengt Westerberg, a former under-secretary of state for both industry and economic affairs, as its new leader at a special party congress early next month.

Mr Westerberg's most important task will be to revive the sagging fortunes of the Liberal Party, which in recent opinion polls has fallen dangerously close to the minimum 4 per cent needed for representation in the Riksdag, the Swedish parliament.

The leadership election follows the resignation at the end of July of Mr Ola Ullsten, Liberal Party leader since 1978, who served as both Prime Minister and Foreign Minister for periods during the six years

of non-Socialist rule from 1976 to 1982.

The Liberals have been increasingly losing ground, with many of their voters going over to the Swedish Conservative Party, Moderata Samlingspartiet, as part of the growing polarisation in Swedish politics, which has squeezed both the Liberal and centre parties.

In the last election a year ago, the Liberals gained only 5.9 per cent of the vote and 21 seats in the Riksdag compared with 10.6 per cent and 28 seats in 1979. They now have only one more seat than the Communists, the smallest party in the Riksdag.

The Liberals' fortunes have been declining steadily since the early 1950s, when they still commanded nearly a quarter of the electorate.

Mr Ullsten's resignation followed months of speculation over his future and serious criticism from within the party over his rather colourless and ineffective performance as leader.

Mr Westerberg emerged yesterday as a certainty for the party leadership, when he was made the unanimous choice of a special party committee formed to canvass opinion in the party's regional associations. All 26 local executive committees supported his candidature.

Mr Westerberg, 40, has gained support as a relatively new political figure, without the burden of having served as a minister during the six years of troubled centre-right coalition and minority Liberal rule up to September 1982.

### Bonn still hopeful on arms pact

BY OUR BONN CORRESPONDENT

THE West German Government believes an accord is still possible in the superpower nuclear arms control negotiations, starting again in Geneva today, despite the new strains to East-West ties caused by the Korean airliner incident.

This was made clear here yesterday after talks between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Mr Paul Nitze, the chief U.S. negotiator at the Geneva negotiations.

Mr Nitze brought with him a personal letter to Herr Kohl from President Ronald Reagan, which is understood to review Washington's position on the talks, and on the downing of

the Korean Jumbo jet by Soviet aircraft.

It is the latest in a series of messages passed between the West German and U.S. leaders during the summer. Herr Kohl also had a letter from Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, shortly before Moscow's recent offer to scrap some of its SS-20 intermediate-range missiles.

Bonn welcomed the Soviet gesture but said it did not go far enough. In particular, the West Germans insist that Moscow give up its demand that the French and British nuclear forces be drawn into the Geneva negotiations.

The West German Govern-

ment is particularly relieved that the Korean jet incident did not cause the U.S. to boycott the Geneva talks. Bonn agrees that while the Soviet act was deplorable, the need for effective arms control remains uppermost.

West Germany is due to start deploying the first of 109 Pershing-2 missiles from the end of this year if the Geneva talks come to nothing. Opinion polls show that a growing number of West Germans would prefer to shelve deployment and have negotiations continue in 1984.

Five minutes to midnight, Page 16

### Malta holds out over security

BY DAVID WHITE IN MADRID

DELEGATIONS at the Madrid Security Conference were last night making a last-ditch bid to persuade Malta to join their agreement—before Foreign Ministers meet in Madrid later this week.

Malta, pursuing its own unpopular campaign on Mediterranean security, continued to hold up a consensus on the final document of the three-year-old Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The document was agreed on by the other 34 Eastern, Western, and neutral nations almost two months ago.

After turning down an appeal by Sr Felipe Gonzales, the Spanish Prime Minister, Malta yesterday launched a new tactic by calling for the Foreign Ministers to hold a special meeting on the Maltese issue today, but this was flatly rejected.

The remaining countries were

on the verge of an accord which would effectively bypass the consensus rule. Under this "second best" solution, they would agree to abide by the provisions of the final document and its annexes—thus ensuring that follow-up meetings, including a much-argued meeting in Switzerland, would take place.

Malta would then be free to add its endorsement at a later stage and a full meeting could be called to bring the Madrid conference to its formal close. However, Romania expressed reservations about breaking the consensus principle.

The Foreign Minister's meeting originally called to close the Security conference — a mission it is unable to fulfil as long as Malta stays out of line — is scheduled to go ahead from tomorrow.

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the

Soviet Foreign Minister, is due to arrive in Madrid for the talks. His visit was confirmed here despite the cancellation of talks scheduled to be held in Paris today.

Mr Gromyko is now to hold a meeting with Mr George Shultz, the U.S. Secretary of State, on Thursday. Mr Shultz is not expected to make his statement to the Ministers' conference until the following day. However other Western Ministers are expected to take up the issue of the Korean airliner incident during tomorrow's session.

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

Hilary Barnes in Copenhagen reports on a major break with the past

## Denmark trims its welfare state

ON DANISH television recently, a student was shown bewailing the hardships she was suffering as a result of the government's attempts to pare public spending. Surely the government doesn't mean that I should ask my family for help," she said.

The comment threw an interesting light on public attitudes to the changes under way in one of the world's most highly developed welfare states.

Whether or not they invented the concept, Denmark and other Scandinavian countries have become the most advanced providers of cradle-to-grave social security, free education and health services, and they have bred a generation which regards this support as an inalienable right.

Mr Poul Schlüter's four-party non-socialist coalition which took office a year ago this month after eight years of governments headed by Social Democrats, has set about changing all that.

"We're going to make it better to be a Dane," was the resounding declaration with which the ebullient Mr Schlüter took up the Premiership.

It turned out to be a phrase which even he has had some trouble living down, for over the past year Danes have experienced higher taxes, higher public transport fares, cuts in their pension rights and reductions (for the most part small) in unemployment and other benefits.

## Interest rates

But to an observer the gloom which is frequently expressed here does not ring entirely true. Denmark has the fifth highest per capita national income in the OECD, about \$10,960 in 1982. Interest rates have come down with a bump, inflation has fallen faster than anticipated, and private consumption—unexpectedly—will rise by about 1½ per cent this year.

Unemployment benefits, trimmed slightly by being indexed last autumn, are still high. The normal rate is almost 90 per cent of income earned, up to a maximum of 90 per cent of the wages of a skilled worker. The maximum is now Dkr 104,000 (£7,140) per year.

The social security benefit paid to a single mother with a young child is almost Dkr 50,000 (£3,441), which is roughly what she could earn in an unskilled occupation, after allowing for tax. The lowest

long-term social welfare benefit is Dkr 37,260 (£2,566) per year. It is, however, an indication of how the government's measures are hitting the weakest that the number of people receiving the lowest form of benefit, which is a new category introduced this year, is about 50,000. This is more than twice the figure predicted by the government when the reform was carried out.

Although it would be difficult to find a truly destitute person in Denmark, the decision by Mr Schlüter's coalition to launch a serious attack on the growth in public spending came as a shock.

The financial shock was quite serious for some groups, especially families with small children who saw subsidies for day-care institutions reduced at the same

period were up by 15 per cent from last year, which represents a volume increase of roughly 10 per cent.

The trade figures have also developed favourably so far this year. The trade deficit for the first seven months was cut to Dkr 300m (£20.5m) from Dkr 5.7bn in the same period last year.

Exports increased by 10.6 per cent to Dkr 80.5bn, with exports of manufactures up by 12.1 per cent to Dkr 52.3bn and imports by 2.9 per cent to Dkr 80.9bn, with energy imports declining Dkr 1.5bn to Dkr 15.1bn.

DELIVERY VOLUME by Danish manufacturing industry is picking up fast, according to Bureau of Statistics figures, Hilary Barnes reports from Copenhagen.

In the three months from May-July, deliveries were 5 per cent higher than in the previous three months on a seasonally-adjusted basis, and compared with the same period in 1982, they were up by 4 per cent.

The deliveries index is a surrogate for an industrial production index, which Denmark does not use.

New orders, in current prices, in the three-month

time as taxes rose. But the psychological shock for a substantial section of the younger generation was just as bad, exemplified by the student's comment already quoted.

Many Danes have grown up believing that good fortune is the gift of the government, and that the private alternative to public assistance is a failure of the system, a social injustice. Against this background, Mr Schlüter and his colleagues are hoping to introduce a greater degree of personal responsibility, self-reliance and dependence on the family (what's left of it: over a third of all Danish children are born out of wedlock).

They do not see this development as an alternative to the welfare state (the radical approach found, for example, on the right wing of the British Conservative Party has no parallel in the thinking of the

(GDP). The budget deficit was about 13 per cent of the GDP.

The net foreign debt, after 20 years with current balance of payments deficits, was 33 per cent of the GDP, which until a few years ago would have been regarded as a debt of truly enormous proportions.

The Social Democrats had allowed all this to happen in the hope that high public spending and foreign borrowing would help curb unemployment (a vain hope—unemployment rose from 5 per cent in 1975 to 10 per cent last year). They made serious efforts to control public spending, but they were never quite hard-headed enough to make their good fiscal intentions stick.

Last September, with the party and its supporting trade unions unable to agree on how stringent economy policy should be, they threw in the towel, resigning without being



Mr Poul Schlüter

defeated in the Folketing.

Judging by the policy programme it issued in August, the party has not become any more hard-nosed in opposition. If re-elected it would restore all the welfare cuts made by the Government and has one or two expensive new reforms up its sleeve as well, such as paid time off work to attend adult education courses.

The Danes may grumble, and public sector pressure groups roar, at the spending cuts and revenue increases imposed by the Government, but Mr Schlüter's determination to put government finances back on a sounder course has not made either him or his government unpopular, judging by the evidence of the opinion polls.

## Large majorities

Mr Schlüter, according to a summer poll, is the most popular prime minister since the war, to which his good humour and television personality undoubtedly contribute.

Other polls have shown large majorities supporting the government's economic policy in general, although there is less enthusiasm for some of the specific measures.

The most marked feature of the polls is that they show Mr Schlüter's Conservatives set to almost double their 14.5 per cent share of the vote in the 1981 election, hut at the expense of the other coalition parties and the tax-protest Progress Party. The left-right balance has changed very little.

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## AMERICAN NEWS

FT writers examine the evidence of U.S. and Soviet claims over the downing of the Korean Air Lines jumbo jet over Sakhalin Island

## Israelis took responsibility for downing Libyan jet

By Roger Matthews, Middle East Editor

WHEN ISRAELI warplanes shot down a Libyan Boeing 727 airliner over occupied Sinai on February 21 1973, with the loss of 104 lives, there was almost immediate acceptance by the Government in Jerusalem of responsibility for the act.

But like the current controversy raging over the fate of the South Korean 747, the culpable party sought to demonstrate that action had been taken only after repeated warnings to the intruding aircraft.

Only a few hours after the Libyan jet was brought down, Mrs Golda Meir, then Prime Minister of Israel, expressed deep sorrow at the loss of life. A Cabinet statement claimed that the airliner had penetrated Israeli airspace over a highly sensitive area, and despite all warnings to the French crew, the Boeing had refused to land.

Gen Moshe Dayan, Minister of Defence, said at a Press conference the following day that there was no reason for the Israeli Government to feel any guilt. All responsibility for the safety of the Boeing's passengers rested with the captain of the aircraft "who clearly understood that he had to land."

Israeli officials added that the intention of the intercepting jets was not to shoot down the Boeing. Warning shots had been fired and after a wing had been hit, the captain of the Boeing unsuccessfully attempted to land among sand dunes.

The crew of the Boeing, on a scheduled flight from Tripoli to Cairo via Benghazi, were within Egyptian airspace at the time of the interception and that the jets which came up to meet them were from the Egyptian Air Force.

There was strong international reaction to the attack. On March 6 1973, Israel announced that it would pay compensation of \$30,000 to the dependents of each of the victims and a lesser sum to survivors who had been injured.

Gen Dayan added in a statement to the Knesset that the disaster had been provoked by "a chain of misunderstandings" and "a series of errors and omissions" by the Libyan aircraft.

## Experts place some blame with crew but spy theory discounted

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

AVIATION experts worldwide are coming to the conclusion that in the tragic destruction of the Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 Jumbo jet by a Russian fighter last week, the crew of the Jumbo itself must bear a substantial part of the responsibility.

The incident has raised many questions, the answer to which may never be known, unless the Soviet Union itself chooses to disclose further information as to the precise sequence of events.

Even then, however, probably the most important question of all — what was the Korean Jumbo doing so far off course in Soviet airspace at all? — will never be answered, with all the crew dead, the wreckage scattered in the ocean, and the vital flight data recorder probably irretrievable.

But the questions must be asked, if only to ensure that possible errors can be assumed, and action taken to prevent their recurrence.

All the reports so far, backed by a chart published by Tass, the Soviet news agency, suggest that the Korean Jumbo was for at least two hours, while en route from Anchorage to Seoul, some 300 miles off course, flying over Soviet airspace and at one point crossing the southern tip of the highly militarised Kamchatka peninsula.

Two hours in a Jumbo is more than 1,000 miles. The Soviet chart depicts a reasonably straight track, at least initially, which points to the fact that the Inertial Navigation System in the Jumbo was working correctly, but had been wrongly programmed so as to ensure that the jet flew on a path other than the internationally assigned normal path.

that would have taken it clear of Soviet airspace.

Since the crew are responsible for programming the INS, the possibility of some error on their part cannot be overlooked. It must be emphasised, however, that there is no evidence for this, but neither is there any evidence that the Tass chart itself is an accurate portrayal of events.

Towards the end of that period of flying the chart depicts a sharp deviation in the Jumbo's track, across the southern tip of Sakhalin Island, prior to the shooting down just north of Hokkaido, Japan. This would appear to indicate (again if the Soviet chart is correct) that at that point, the crew did realise that they were on the wrong track, and began to move to correct the error.

If there had been an error in programming the INS it would probably only have been noted after a routine check of position by the crew, or if some external incident had aroused their suspicions — such as the sudden appearance of a Soviet fighter.

This would also appear to account for the crew not acknowledging earlier Russian signals by fighters.

What is more inexplicable is the apparent lack of any kind of radio communication with the Jumbo with either the Soviet fighters, or the ground stations, especially in northern Japan. A communications failure does not seem to be likely, because, by all accounts, the radio was working properly on departure from Anchorage. Radio communications in that area are far less sophisticated than say, on the North Atlantic, and ground controllers rely much more on "procedural" methods of control.

That is, they tend to rely on the aircraft themselves to state their position, rather than on monitoring the aircraft by radar, which would be impossible given the distances from land the aircraft fly, and the limited ranges of the radars available in that region.

If there was an error in the information fed into the navigation system, therefore, of which the crew were unaware, it is not surprising that there should be a long period of silence.

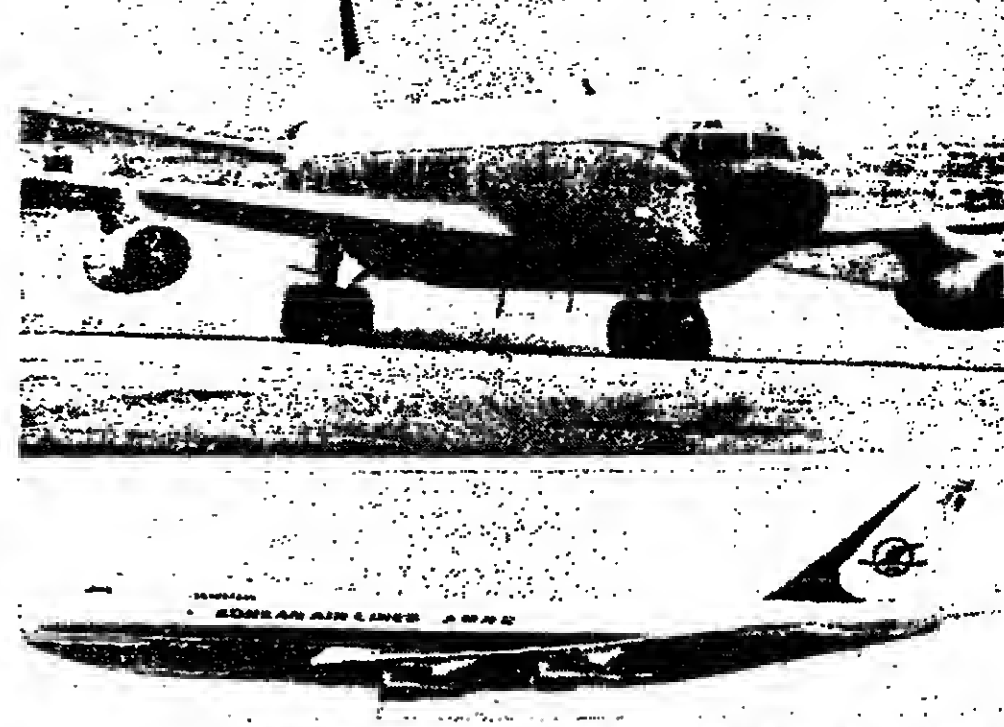
It has also been suggested that the crew had deliberately chosen to take a short cut, by flying across Soviet airspace. This can probably be totally rejected. No responsible jet captain would knowingly hazard his aircraft, crew and passengers by flying off an internationally assigned, safe track into the hostile and sensitive airspace of an unpredictable country like the Soviet Union.

This is more especially the case in that in the past Korean Airlines' aircraft have been buzzed by Soviet fighters, and on one occasion actually fired.

If there is some possibility in the entire affair that the crew itself might have been at fault, however, there is as much doubt as to the veracity of some of the Soviet statements so far.

Suggestions that the Soviet fighters mistook the Jumbo for a U.S. "spy" aircraft are ridiculous. No U.S. spy aircraft is of the same size as a Jumbo, and if, as the Russians claim, one of their jets flew close enough to see cabin lights, it is impossible to believe that the Jumbo could have been mistaken, even in the dark, for anything other than what it was.

It is hard to believe that, in such a sensitive and militarily highly monitored region, the Russian air force locally does



"Spy Jet" or civil Jumbo?—A Jumbo jet (above) is the monster of the sky, weighing, fully-loaded, over 300 tons, with a wing-span of more than 195 ft and carrying about 450 passengers. An RC-135 (top) of the type the Russians claim was in the region, is a reconnaissance version of the Boeing 707, which has a fully-loaded weight of about 150 tons, a wing-span of about 146 feet and carries at most 200 passengers or an equivalent weight of equipment.

not know well just what regular civil air traffic there is around, and that any unusual blip on a radar screen would not be immediately investigated, just in case it might be a civil aircraft inadvertently straying off course.

The fact that the Russians shadowed the Jumbo for over two hours indicates plainly that

they did detect an unusual occurrence, and sent fighters to investigate it. To suggest that, over that period of time, they could not identify it as a civilian aircraft and only finally shot it down in the belief that it was a U.S. "spy" aircraft, is plainly ludicrous, as the U.S. official spokesmen have already declared.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion, on present evidence, that the crew of the Jumbo did make a navigational error, of which they were unaware, which took them off track into Soviet airspace, and that the jet was deliberately shot down, for reasons only the Russians know, in the full knowledge that it was a civil aircraft.

## U.S. to make public tapes of pilots' conversation

By Reginald Dale, U.S. Editor, in Washington

THE U.S. will soon make public the tapes of "very excited" conversations between three Soviet fighter pilots just moments after they shot down the South Korean airliner, a White House official said yesterday. The tapes, which President Ronald Reagan played to Congressional leaders on Sunday, are roughly 65 minutes long.

Congressmen who heard the tapes said that they left no doubt that the Soviet Union shot down the Korean airliner. Uncertainty persisted, however, over whether the Soviet pilots meant that the aircraft was a commercial airliner when they opened fire.

The complexity of the incident was heightened following Sunday night's admission by the White House that a U.S. military reconnaissance "spy plane" had passed within 75 miles of the airliner on a routine flight, outside Soviet airspace, some two hours before the Korean aircraft went down.

The U.S. insisted, however, that the RC-135, a modified Boeing 707, was 1,000 miles away when the airliner was shot down and that the Soviet Union could not have continued to confuse the two aircraft, even if it had done so at first. The Soviet Union was fully aware that RC-135s routinely patrol the area in international airspace, officials said.

Mr. Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said that as the Soviet Union followed the route of the South Korean aircraft "particularly with the visual and radar information available to them, when they shot it down, they should have known instinctively that it was a civilian airliner." There was "no margin for error," he said.

Mr. Speakes said that a Soviet SU-15 shot down the airliner while a MiG-23 and an unidentified Soviet aircraft "regretted" the incident.

The SU-15 had visual sight within three kilometres and literally circled the Korean airliner, he said.

## S. Koreans wait for proof as Asian reaction remains low key

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Mr Lee Bum Suk, the South Korean Foreign Minister said yesterday that the Korean Air Lines 747 Jumbo jet said to have been shot down in a Soviet attack last week was definitely not on a spy mission, but was flying a "genuine, peace-loving passenger flight."

He said no definite conclusion as to why, how, or even if

the aircraft had strayed off course had been reached.

As yet there was no definite proof that the aircraft was in the Soviet strategic area of Sakhalin Island, he said.

The South Korean Government has not received the official tapes of the last conversation with the pilot of the Korean Air Lines Jumbo and

the Japanese air control personnel monitoring the flight path, but an investigation of all of the information now available is under way at the Ministry of Transportation.

Mr Lee said that South Korea was awaiting the outcome of United Nations Security Council meetings on the Soviet attack before outlining any other

action.

Japan remains "very much frustrated" over a Soviet refusal to allow Japanese search vessels into the area where the aircraft is believed to have crashed, but is unlikely to retaliate with overt economic or diplomatic sanctions, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman quoted a senior Ministry official as saying the reported attack on the

airliner by Soviet fighters was regarded as a "temporary" incident.

Mr Shintaro Abe, the Foreign Minister, is expected to meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, at the end of September at the United Nations, and a Government trade delegation will probably go to the Soviet Union next month, the spokesman said.

China is taking a low-key

approach in its response to the incident in an apparent attempt to avoid upsetting its delicate relationship with the Soviet Union.

The only official comment has been a two-sentence statement from a Foreign Ministry official expressing "shock" and "regret." The Chinese media has reported the international reaction prominently but with-out comment.

China is taking a low-key

## Pravda devotes half a page to incident

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON

THE SOVIET leadership has finally signalled to its own people that the Korean aircraft disaster has involved the Soviet Union in a major international incident by devoting half a page in yesterday's Pravda to the story and hinting that the Korean jumbo was mistaken by Soviet fighters for a U.S. spy plane.

A lengthy article by Colonel General Semyon Romanov, which had been released in advance for wider distribution by the Tass news agency,

admitted for the first time that the incident involved heavy loss of life. But the general gave no figures and still did not admit that Soviet fighters had shot it down.

He described the human losses as "yet more victims of the cold war whose apologist and champion is the White House . . . history will lay the blame for these lives at its door."

Gen Romanov rejected Western allegations that the Soviet

fighter pilot tracking the plane knew that it was a civilian airliner. "This is exactly what the pilot did not know," he said. "The plane was flying without lights and its shape in many respects resembles the American reconnaissance craft RC-135. The pilot could not determine what function the intruding plane was carrying out, he added."

Western diplomats in Moscow said that the Soviet suggestion that the pilot had made an error

should be seen as a broad hint that Soviet fighters had done more than flash signals and fire tracer bullets and is the closest that the Soviet authorities have come so far to admitting that they had shot the plane down.

Meanwhile, Moscow continues to ignore separate requests from Japan and the U.S. to allow search craft inside its 12 nautical-mile limit around Hoonson off the western coast of Sakhalin Island where the Korean plane is believed to have fallen.

## Venezuela rejects creation of debtors' cartel

BY KIM FUAD IN CARACAS

SR ARTURO SOSA, the Venezuelan Finance Minister, yesterday rejected the creation of a Latin American debtors' cartel but was highly critical of the terms demanded by the International Monetary Fund and foreign banks to refinance the region's estimated \$330bn (£221bn) foreign debt.

In inaugurating an Organisation of American States (OAS) special meeting on Latin American foreign debt, Dr Sosa warned that excessively

harsh terms could pose unjustifiable risks for hemispheric stability.

Venezuela, which is attempting to refinance \$18.4bn of its estimated \$330bn foreign debt, has steadfastly rejected an IMF economic stabilisation programme demanded by creditor banks.

"If the conditions for refinancing for the countries of the region are more onerous and require adjustments to the

internal economy that are more severe than necessary, it should be clear that this would not only seriously affect their economic development, but would also unjustifiably risk their social and political stability at a crucial moment in the history of our hemisphere," Dr Sosa said.

The Finance Minister called for a systematic exchange of information among the region's debtors to facilitate remedial

action and clearly to express the desire for what he termed "equitable treatment" in refinancing.

The five-day OAS conference brings together the 31 member states of the organisation with observers from private banks and international lending agencies. The first three days of the meeting will be devoted to presentation of technical papers, while on Thursday and Friday there will be a ministerial-level conference.

## Weinberger starts visit to Central American armies

BY REGINALD DALE

MR CASPAR WEINBERGER, the U.S. Defence Secretary, leaves Washington today for a three-day visit to assess the military situation in Central America. In the first visit to the region by a U.S. Defence Secretary, he will inspect military forces in Panama, El Salvador and Honduras, and visit U.S. troops taking part in the Big Pine exercise with Honduran forces.

As Mr Weinberger prepared to leave Washington, high-ranking Pentagon officials said that they were cautiously optimistic about the performance of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran army in the past two months, since Congress approved a \$30m infusion of military aid after an initial \$50m appropriation for the year had run out.

U.S. officials had been expecting an offensive by left-wing guerrillas, such as the weekend attack on San Miguel, after a period in which they had been put on the defensive by the

Salvadoran army. They said the guerrillas probably felt they needed to re-establish their credentials as a fighting force — particularly now that contacts with the Government seemed to be getting under way.

In the past two months, the Pentagon said, guerrilla morale had been low, and about 500 rebels had turned themselves in to government forces. The army had "turned the tables" on the insurgents, the officials said.

In addition to the "shot in the arm" from U.S. funds, the Pentagon said that the 25,000-strong Salvadoran army had been bolstered by the more vigorous approach of the new Defence Minister, General Carlos Vides Cassanova. The rebels numbered between 6,000 and 7,000 according to the latest estimates, with about an equal number of sympathisers providing support, the officials said.

## Recession takes toll of company executives' pay

BY PAUL TAYLOR IN NEW YORK

THE AVERAGE chief executive of a small U.S. company with sales of around \$4m a year took home \$78,200 (£50,968) last year, according to a survey of small company compensation prepared by the accounting firm, Peat Marwick, and published in Inc Magazine this month.

The survey highlights the impact of the recession on the salary structure of small companies in the U.S. and suggests that smaller companies are copying their larger counterparts in developing increasingly sophisticated compensation packages for their senior executives.

"There is clear evidence that the 1982 recession took its toll," says the report. Poor business conditions prompted nearly half the 466 companies surveyed to make changes in their overall compensation practices in the past year, with wage freezes and cuts in planned pay increases topping the list of actions taken.

The report notes that while

chief executives saw their base salaries increase on average last year by 7 per cent to \$85,000, total compensation grew by only 4.5 per cent.

Mr Peter Chingos, a principal in Peat Marwick's compensation practice, explaining the divergence between base salaries and take home pay said: "This is because 40 per cent of the chief executives surveyed received a reduced bonus or no bonus at all in 1983."

By contrast, other key company executives fared somewhat better because, the report suggests, chief executives of companies with little money took less for themselves in order to give higher increases to their colleagues. Thus chief operating officers earned an average of \$81,000, a 7.7 per cent increase, and chief financial officers earned \$54,000, a 9.5 per cent increase.

The companies surveyed suggested however that they plan to give senior executives increases of about 9.5 per cent during the next 12 months.

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## OVERSEAS NEWS

## Israel's coalition negotiations hit problems

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

NEGOTIATIONS over the preservation of Israel's coalition Government have run into difficulties, despite an agreement in principle by the coalition partners to support Mr Yitzhak Shamir for Prime Minister.

The ruling Likud block had hoped for a quick transition between Mr Shamir, currently the Foreign Minister, and Mr Menachem Begin, who last week announced his intention to resign the Premiership. But the prospects for an early agreement now appear to be fading.

Because of the problems which have arisen, Mr Begin may postpone handing his resignation to President Chaim Herzog until after the Jewish

New Year holidays, which begin tomorrow evening. This would give Mr Shamir more time to work out terms with the coalition's junior partners. With only 46 seats in the Knesset, the Likud is dependent on a number of junior partners to gain control of the 120-seat parliament.

Despite daily meetings between the Likud leadership and the heads of the four smaller parties and three independent Knesset members, who comprise the coalition, the negotiations appear to produce areas of disagreement as large as those of consensus.

After a meeting yesterday, the ethnic Tami party spokesman said they had made it

clear to the Likud that their continued participation depended on the cancellation of some harsh new economic measures which they felt would hurt the lower income groups.

One of the Tami members, Mr Pessach Grupper, the Agriculture Minister, has also announced that he will not give up chairmanship of the ministerial committee in charge of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

This creates a further problem for Mr Shamir, as he is reliably reported to have promised this post to Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister. This is believed to be a quid pro quo for Mr Sharon's support of Mr Shamir in last

week's party leadership election.

The powerful Agudat Israel party, with four Knesset members, is demanding a timetable from the would-be Premier for the implementation of religious legislation promised in the coalition agreement signed two years ago with Mr Begin.

One ray of sunshine for the Likud lay in the news that scheduled meetings with the opposition Labour Party by Tami and the five-member National Religious Party were not held yesterday.

Labour is hoping to persuade these two parties to join it in a coalition which could replace that of Likud.

## Rand steady after new exchange regulations

By Bernard Simon in Johannesburg

BARELY a ripple was felt in the South African foreign exchange market yesterday following the withdrawal of the Reserve Bank as an active participant and the first payments of dollars, rather than rand, to mining houses for gold bullion deliveries.

The Reserve Bank's intervention amounted to a few small transactions. The bank's senior deputy governor, Dr Chris Stals, said late yesterday afternoon: "We are very satisfied. It was much quieter than expected."

Dr Stals said the bank had taken various measures in the past few weeks to minimise the risk of a sharp fall in the rand.

The authorities have kept a tight rein on the domestic money market, making it difficult and expensive for banks to fund any speculation against the rand. Dr Stals added: "We have accumulated a large amount of cash in our reserves."

According to the monthly statement of South Africa's foreign reserves published yesterday, the Reserve Bank's foreign exchange holdings jumped by over R500m (\$296m) last month to R1.2bn at the end of August. Dr Stals refused to say how much of the increase was due to the Reserve Bank's short-term borrowings.

One of the main changes implemented yesterday was the termination of an "official" exchange rate for the rand quoted by the Reserve Bank. Each private bank is now free to quote its own rate.

The difference between the banks' rate was minimal yesterday. The rand rose slightly thanks to the steady dollar and higher gold price. It closed at around \$0.687 compared to the Reserve Bank's final quote last Friday of \$0.6855.

According to Dr Stals, the Reserve Bank paid dollars to some mining houses yesterday. He said a "substantial part" was immediately sold to local banks. In terms of the new rules, the mines can hold dollars for up to seven days.

Dealers expect the market to become more active later in the week as the flow of dollars from the six mining houses picks up. The holiday in the U.S. yesterday also dampened trading.

## President's party wins majority in Nigerian Assembly

BY QUENTIN PEEL, AFRICA EDITOR

PRESIDENT Shehu Shagari's new administration in Nigeria will enjoy absolute majorities in both houses of the National Assembly, thanks to the overwhelming victory of the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN) in the last month's elections.

With only the results for the 19 state assemblies still awaited, and polls still to be held in two traditionally-hostile western states, the NPN already has won control of both the Senate, with 55 seats out of 96, and the House of Representatives, with 263 seats out of a total 450.

The outcome will greatly simplify the legislative task of the new administration, which takes office on October 1. For the past four years, President Shagari has faced a hostile majority in the National Assembly, and has suffered long delays in his programmes.

The President has already begun an exercise to reorganise his Government, with the appointment of a seven-man transition committee under the chairmanship of Mallam Adamu Chirama, the Minister of Agriculture and former Governor of the Central Bank.

The committee has been

instructed to recommend possible restructuring of Federal Government Ministries, and to prepare "new guidelines and strategies for use by ministries and departments, for the achievement of the stated objectives of the administration."

Improved economic administration is a top priority for President Shagari in his coming term of office, according to close advisers, and it is likely to be a major area of concern for the International Monetary Fund, whose officials are due in Lagos this week to complete negotiations for a loan of more than \$2bn (£1.33bn).

Moves to stabilise the economy have been introduced swiftly over the past 17 months only thanks to emergency legislation passed by the National Assembly in April 1982. Previously the President's budget measures had taken more than 12 months to implement by legislation.

President Shagari still faces a difficult task of persuading the legislators of the need for further tough cuts in government spending, which seem certain to be called for, both as a result of the IMF talks, and future negotiations with the World Bank for a structural adjustment loan.

## Zia blames Pakistan unrest on 'foreigners'

By Mohammed Afiah in Islamabad

President Geo Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq yesterday alleged that foreign powers are financing the current anti-government agitation in Pakistan.

He made this charge at a news conference on return from his six-day official visit to Turkey and meetings with King Fahd and other leaders in Saudi Arabia.

General Zia said that there were several countries involved in encouraging, primarily financially, "a destructive, but a very small movement designed to undermine the low and order situation in the southern province of Sindh."

He declined to elaborate whether by his allegation of the role of a "foreign hand" in the three-week-old opposition agitation, he meant that India is involved. He pointed out that Mrs Indira Gandhi, Indian Prime Minister, and P. V. Narasimha Rao, External Affairs Minister, recently made statements supporting the agitation.

Commenting on the demands of the agitation's organisers — the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) — Zia said that since he took over the Government in 1977, he had repeatedly pointed out that a martial law government is unsuitable to Pakistan's needs.

His Government planned to return the country to a civilian and democratic rule and also wanted to Islamise it, he said. "There can be no compromise on the Islamisation plan," he said.

The President said he was prepared to talk to patriotic opposition politicians individually.

Reuter adds: Police arrested seven members of the banned Pakistan People's Party (PPP) yesterday when they returned to Pakistan to lead a campaign for democracy in Punjab province, airport sources said.

The group, the first of what PPP officials in London have said are up to 300 Punjabis ready to return, ended self-exile in Britain and West Germany to join protests led by the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

## Patrick Cockburn joined the multinational force surveying combat Mountain theatre for Beirut's drama

"LET THEM kill each other and let's get the hell out of here," said the American-accented voice on the field radio yesterday as members of the Multinational Military Force watched another artillery round crash into Beirut International Airport where American Marines are stationed.

In the mountains to the south and east of the capital Lebanese army and Christian militia artillery poured round after round into the positions held by Druze militiamen high above them. Tall columns of black smoke rose from a power station hit by shells close to the coast road.

The headquarters of the 101-strong British contingent to the Multinational Force is an excellent observation post to watch the artillery duels in the amphitheatre of mountains which rise in a semi-circle round about Beirut. In the main the little force, drawn largely from the First Queen's Dragoon Guards, plays the role of observers and does some patrolling in Ferret armoured cars.

The 4,000-strong Multinational Force, which President Reagan is now considering reinforcing, is in Lebanon as a symbol of international support for the Lebanese Government. It is not there to fight for President Amin Gemayel's embattled regime which is now trying to secure its control of the Greater Beirut area.

Much of the artillery fire is directed at the Druze positions close to the coast road leading south. On Sunday, when the Israeli army withdrew to the Awali River, the 32,000 strong

Further fighting has broken out between factions of the Palestinian Fatah guerrilla group near Baalbek in Lebanon, according to the Tunisian news agency Tap. Reuter reports from Tunis.

Top quoted a Palestinian military spokesman as saying that guerrillas loyal to Fatah leader and Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman

Yassir Arafat clashed with dissidents led by Abu Khalid Al-Umla and supported by Syrian troops.

The agency said fighting had been going on for two days in the Ashlifa area near Baalbek and that Syrian troops had also fired on pro-Arafat guerrilla bases, demanding that the bases be evacuated.

Lebanese regular army fought to control the vital road crossing at Khalde. A whole brigade is to be sent to secure the coast road down to the new Israeli line.

There was little sign yesterday of artillery fire from the Druze except a few shell bursts at the airport. The main Druze effort is around the Christian-held town of Bhamdoun, which the Christian Militias are trying to hold against attacks from three directions. If they lose it will be a major defeat.

The position of the Christian militias is looking increasingly

desperate. "They expected the army to move against the Druze when the Israelis pulled out," said a Maronite yesterday. They have been stockpiling arms and equipment for months, but the Druze can expect total support from Syria, which has 60,000 of its troops in Eastern Lebanon.

Christian militia officers say that other Lebanese forces, such as the Communists, are joining the Druze in attacks on them. There are worries in Beirut that a Druze victory will be followed by massacres of Christians in the mountains.

Most of the Greater Beirut

## Syria calls for total Arab League boycott of Beirut

SYRIA has called for a total Arab League boycott of the Lebanese Government headed by President Amin Gemayel.

In the clearest statement yet of its wish to topple the Lebanese Government and with it the agreement installed with Israel, Syria is seeking support at the next

Arab League summit for a political, economic and military boycott of Beirut.

A memorandum circulated to other Arab governments says that the American sponsored agreement between President Gemayel and Jerusalem turns Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate.



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## WORLD TRADE NEWS

## Gatt expects small rise in second-half world trade volume

By ANTHONY McDERMOTT IN GENEVA

THE volume of world trade this year is likely to match that of last year, according to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in its annual review. "The indications are that this modest goal will be achieved" assuming a rise in volume in the second half of this year on the back of world economic recovery. World trade declined by 2 per cent in volume terms last year from 1981. It fell 6 per cent in value terms to \$1,950bn (\$1,240bn). Volume continued to decline until the last months of last year. But there is a note of despair in Gatt's report. "All the particular difficulties—the capital shortage, the debt problem, protectionism—can be brought to the common denominator of failures of the price system." Gatt asks that governments, particularly in the industrialised

world, should not indulge in an "after you" policy of easing protectionism. "It was the original purpose of the Gatt," the first chapter concludes, "to strengthen governments against the particular pressures emanating from national economies. This purpose has almost been lost. A new joint initiative is needed to reverse it." The Gatt review pays particular attention to the problem of trade flows in 16 of the leading indebted countries which account for more than 60 per cent of the \$600bn estimated to be owed by developing countries at the end of last year. Gatt advocates changes in the trade policies of both creditor and debtor countries. In the latter case, it suggests the more efficient use of savings. For creditor countries there is a need to encourage exports from countries which owe money by giving them more liberal access.

## Sharp fall between West and Third World

By NANCY DUNNE IN WASHINGTON

ALTHOUGH the industrial countries' exports rose slightly in the second quarter of 1983 and their trade deficit narrowed in the first six months, world-wide foreign trade continued sluggish, according to statistics published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today. Exports from industrial countries totalled \$235.4bn in the second quarter, 1.3 per cent up from the last quarter but still 5.2 per cent below export earnings in the second quarter of 1982. Imports for the second quarter, totalling \$297.6bn, matched the first quarter but were 4.9 per cent less than in 1982. The contraction in world trade last year was due in large measure to a sharp fall in trade between the industrial and developing countries. On the bright side, the trade deficit of the non-oil developing countries narrowed considerably, totalling 11.8bn in the first quarter, less than half the deficit of \$23.8bn in the first quarter of 1982.

## Midland to help finance Colombia project

By Frank Gray

MIDLAND BANK will participate in a \$22m loan to provide finance and equity funds for a \$102m cement plant to be located in Colombia. The bank yesterday signed a participation agreement with the International Finance Corporation, the private sector finance unit of the World Bank, Credit Commercial de France and the Danish Industrialisation Fund for Developing Countries to establish the loan and equity facility for Cementos Boclarc of Colombia.

Under the agreement, the IFC's share of the loan will be \$11m. Midland will provide \$6m, Credit Commercial \$3m and the Danish Fund \$2m. The IFC also will contribute \$5m in equity to the company.

The remainder of the project's debt financing will come from Fondo de Inversiones Privadas of Colombia and local housing banks and financial institutions. A supplier of credit for equipment, erection and startup will come from the F. L. Smith company of Denmark.

Midland's interest in the project coincided with that of the IFC. It said it was encouraged by Colombia's healthy financial situation among Latin American countries.

The 500,000 ton per year dry-process plant will be constructed in the Antioquia region, which includes Medellin, Colombia's second largest city. The region suffers from a cement shortage, and the country has identified a need for 100,000 new dwellings a year.

Robert Cottrell examines the latest example of Hong Kong business ingenuity

## Textile trade spins money from quota sales

FARMING MAY well be the most profitable business in Hong Kong this year—but not the kind of farming which has anything to do with tractors or green fields. Today's money-spinners are the men who "farm-out" garment export quotas, the licences issued by the Hong Kong Government permitting local garment manufacturers to sell products into overseas markets which are regulated by international trade agreements. The quota system is a function of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, an agreement which restricts textile and garment trade between developed-country importers and developing-country exporters. The agreement calls upon the governments of exporting countries to restrict at source the flow of garments to particular markets. Hong Kong does so by issuing quota permits to local manufacturers on the basis of past performance, but then allowing those manufacturers to sell on their quotas to new

comers in a secondary market. This year, demand from the U.S.—Hong Kong's main export market—has resurged strongly after a recessionary 1982. The recovery has been a welcome surprise to Hong Kong, and may help it comfortably to overshoot official forecasts of a 1 per cent growth in real gross domestic products this year.

It has been an even pleasanter surprise for established garment exporters, whose quota allocations have soared in value. But new and expanding exporters are cornered. Order books may be booming. But to cover those orders with quota allocations may mean buying quotas at secondary market prices which are more than twice out of profit. Such newcomers may hope in time to win a primary allocation of quotas for less popular categories of garments left unclaimed by more established manufacturers. But for the "hot"—popular—quotas, they remain at the mercy of the market.

A quota to export a dozen cotton sweaters to the U.S., which would have cost HK\$80 (£5.30) in March 1982, was costing HK\$470 in July this year. A quota covering a dozen pairs of cotton trousers or shorts, changing hands at HK\$2 as recently as August 1982 has soared to HK\$270. A quota for woollen sweaters which might have cost HK\$56 last year cost HK\$765 in July this year.

These are examples of price rises which are sharp, but by no means isolated. Industry sources say that, as an indicative estimate, a composite of major U.S. export quotas would show perhaps an eight-fold appreciation over secondary market prices prevailing a year ago.

The effect on local manufacturers buying secondary-market quotas can be to put profits in back to quota prices, which at present levels will represent by far the largest cost element in a garment manufactured for export. Whereas it might cost HK\$170 in materials, labour and overheads to produce a

dozen pairs of jeans, an export quota for the U.S. market can today add a further HK\$250 to the manufacturer's bill.

Defenders of Hong Kong's quota system say that it encourages flexibility and efficiency. If one manufacturer does not need a quota, he can sell it to somebody else who does without any time-consuming red tape. And letting a free market set quota prices helps ensure that quotas will go to the most efficient companies which can best afford to pay for them.

Critics of the system are not asking for increased bureaucracy, but they do believe that present regulations give too much leeway to established quota-holders. The key provision attacked by critics is one which permits quota holders to sell up to half their quotas in any one year without jeopardising their allocation in the subsequent year.

A further factor working in favour of established quota holders is that their usage of quotas will be officially assessed on an overall basis, and not on a by-category basis. So a manu-

facturer can sell on the secondary market a quota for a type of garment heavily in demand, and replace it on his books with a quota bought in cheaply for a less-prized category of garment. The effect is that, despite the foray into the secondary market, the manufacturer still holds for his own use the same number of quotas which he was originally allocated, preserving his future allocation and also turning a profit.

A Government-sponsored review of Hong Kong's quota system will soon be submitted to the Executive Council, the territory's senior policy-making body. Some industry sources believe that, while minor modifications may help open up quota allocations to new holders, the basic system will survive.

As Mr Hamish MacLeod, Hong Kong's director of trade, said in a recent interview with "Textile Asia" magazine: "There is nothing inherently wrong with a premium for quotas. If you allow transfers, which you must for the sake of flexibility, then the only way of deciding who gets the quotas is the simple way—who pays the most."

## Cluff Oil wins stake in China offshore contract

By RICHARD JOHNS

CLUFF OIL of the UK is a member of one of two consortia which yesterday signed exploration contracts with the Chinese National Oil Corporation.

The UK independent oil company is a member of a group led by Idemitsu which also includes Natamex of the U.S. Cluff Oil said that it was unable yet to reveal its share in the venture covering an area of 963 square kilometres in the Beibu Gulf of the South China Sea but added that the percentage was "fairly small". Cluff, however, has reached agreement with CNOOC on the

terms of another contract. It is likely to be concluded in October, according to the company.

Mr A. P. Johnson, Cluff's exploration manager, said yesterday that the company was "happy" with the acreage awarded to it. The second agreement was signed with the Japan National Oil Company (JNOC), the state entity charged with promoting oil exploration and development. It involves 1,283 square kilometres in the basin at the mouth of the Pearl River in the South China Sea.

## Pakistan, Iran to sign trade deal

By Mohammed Aftab in Islamabad

MINISTERIAL-LEVEL talks start in Tehran tomorrow on fostering Iran-Pakistan trade. They are likely to last five days.

The goods traded between the two countries have been moving by ship and the overland railway route via Quetta in south-west Pakistan, and Zahidan in Iran. But very slow off-loading of railway wagons, slow movement on the line itself and its limited carrying capacity, have provided serious bottlenecks on the rail route.

Apart from ratifying a trade agreement, Iran and Pakistan will sign a new trucking agreement which will enable Pakistani trucks to travel direct to leading Iranian destinations and by-pass the overloaded railway. The two countries signed a trade agreement in April 1982 in Tehran, providing for \$500m to \$250m trade each way during 1982-83 fiscal year. The actual levels of trade appear to have fallen well short of this.

Pakistan exports under the agreement included textiles, rice, iron and steel products, carbon black, chemicals, fertilisers, sugar, fish meal and poultry. Iran exported zinc, lead, sulphur, saffron, raisins, oilseed, medicinal herbs, and above all crude oil, amounting to 10,000 barrels a day. Iranian exports during the first nine months of fiscal 1982-83, for which the latest statistics are available, were around \$90m and imports from Pakistan \$60m.

## W. Berlin fair underlines Japan's video strength

By LESLIE COLT IN BERLIN

Japanese consumer electronics sales to West Germany rose 9 per cent to DM 1.11bn (£275m) in the first half of this year with West Germans buying 37 per cent of the Japanese video and audio products exported to the European Community.

This explains the strong presence of Japanese firms at the current International Audio and Video Fair in West Berlin which is billed as the largest of its kind. The fair is simultaneously a public and trade event, where companies can test consumer reaction to their new products.

Gründig, which is West Germany's largest manufacturer of consumer electronics, says its Philips-Grundig video cassette recorder, the 2000 model, has captured 30 per cent of the German market—an improvement of eight per cent on last year. This, however, is an outcome of an agreement by the Japanese voluntarily to limit sales of VCRs in Europe until the end of next year.

While some industry representatives say this has given European companies a breathing space in which to expand their own VCR production, others predict that when the agreement lapses, Japan will quickly make up for lost time. Even under the self-imposed restrictions, Japanese VCR sales to West Germany expanded by 29 per cent in the first six months of this year.

Some 1.4m VCRs are expected to be sold in West Germany this year, worth about DM 3.8bn—DM 400m more than last year. Only 1.4 per cent of the potential West German market has been tapped and estimates are that sales next year will outstrip those of colour TVs which are still the mainstay of the trade. Colour television sales in West Germany rose 3 per cent in the first half of this year and domestic sales for the year are estimated at about 2.4m colour television sets worth some DM 4m.

## Thomson-Brandt starts to make JVC-licensed VCRs

By PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

THOMSON-BRANDT, the large nationalised French electronics group, has started assembling video cassette recorder components in France on licence from JVC, the Japanese company accounting for 70 per cent of the world VCR market.

But the decision to begin assembly of mechanical heads and other VCR components, quietly announced by Thomson at a trade fair in Berlin appears to be turning into another controversy in France. Thomson signed its landmark

licensing agreement with JVC last spring to enable the French company to become a major manufacturer of VCRs.

Thomson announced in Berlin that assembly of the first Japanese components had begun on August 16 at Thomson's factory at Tonnemont in the French region of Burgundy. In so doing, Thomson appears to have pre-empted the French government which was considering proposals to build a new plant in France to manufacture and assemble the Japanese VCR components.

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CASE NO. 3-81-0011-LK

### NOTICE OF PROCEDURES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF ITEL EUROBONDS UNDER PLAN OF REORGANIZATION

In re:  
**ITEL CORPORATION,**  
a Delaware corporation,  
Debtor

TO HOLDERS OF ITEL EUROBONDS:

100% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1993 of Itel Finance International N.V.  
9% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1990 of Itel Finance International N.V.  
9% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1988 of Itel Finance International N.V.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Itel Corporation will inform all holders of Eurobonds of the procedures for the exchange of Itel Eurobonds for cash and new securities to be issued in connection with Itel's reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. Itel expects to implement its Plan of Reorganization by September 30, 1983.

Both Itel and the successor Indenture trustee for the Eurobonds—J. Henry Schroder Bank & Trust Company—have appointed The Bank of New York to serve as Exchange Agent. Itel has sent Letters of Transmittal and instructions for the exchange of securities to all Eurobond holders who filed proofs of claim. For those holders of Eurobonds who did not file proofs of claim, Letters of Transmittal and instructions may be obtained from the Exchange Agent or the Indenture trustee as follows:

The Bank of New York  
Agency Department  
P.O. Box 11230  
Church Street Station  
New York, NY 10249  
U.S.A.  
Telephone: (212) 509-0658

J. Henry Schroder Bank & Trust Company  
Attn: George Sievers, First Vice President  
One State Street  
New York, NY 10015  
U.S.A.  
Telephone: (212) 269-6500

Eurobond holders also may obtain Letters of Transmittal and instructions from Itel Corporation's Distribution Agent as follows:

Morrow & Co.  
30 Gardiner Close  
London, E11, ENGLAND  
Telephone: 01-989-3397

Itel's Plan of Reorganization will go into effect 11 days after the United States Bankruptcy Court finds that all conditions to confirmation of the Plan have been met. Actual distribution of cash and new securities will begin as soon as possible after the effective date.

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## UK NEWS

# Oil assets likely to be sold off early next year

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

MR Peter Walker, Energy Secretary, is expected to tell Parliament next month that he plans to sell British Gas Corporation's oil assets in the spring. The sale is likely to raise more than £400m.

Mr Walker is still taking advice on the privatisation method but there is a growing feeling in Whitehall and the City of London that the assets will be sold through a public flotation. In this way a large new UK oil company will be formed with interests in five commercial fields and 20 oil exploration blocks.

The embryo company, Enterprise Oil, has already been established. Its eight full-time staff are temporarily housed at the London offices of merchant bankers Kleinwort, Benson.

The Government has appointed two directors to run the company: Mr Peter Ewen, a director of Kleinwort, Benson, who is acting as chief executive, and Mr Julian West, who has been seconded from the Energy Department, where he is an assistant secretary.

"What we are doing at the moment is ensuring that we are looking after the assets properly," said Mr West, who until a few weeks ago was Mr Walker's private secretary.

Mr West said the eventual size of the staff would depend on whether the assets are merely sold to other companies - either piecemeal or as a package - or privatised through a Stock Exchange flotation. He said:

"If the flotation route is chosen, we would need to staff up as a whole oil company. After two three years we might need a staff of 50 to 100."

Directors and staff of Enterprise Oil have not yet been told of the future for their company, which, according to stockbrokers De Zoete and Bevan, will have production and exploration assets worth about £540m.

Mr Ian Watts, an oil analyst with De Zoete, said: "Circumstances most readily support a flotation of the company with shares being quoted on the London Stock Exchange."

At present Enterprise Oil contains only the former oil production interests of British Gas. The Government is also expected to transfer the corporation's stake in eight exploration licences, covering 20 blocks, to the new company. This transfer is expected to be debated in Parliament when Mr Walker could well outline his plans for Enterprise Oil.

The company is producing more than 30,000 barrels a day - oil worth £800,000 daily - from its minority interests in the Fulmar, Beryl, North West Hutton, Montrose and Hutton Fields.

By 1986, according to De Zoete and Bevan, these interests should yield £2,200 b/d. The brokers estimate these assets alone are worth £265m.

# Blockade backed in Vauxhall pay dispute

By Brian Groom, Labour Staff

NATIONAL officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) yesterday pledged their support for a blockade on imports of Vauxhall vehicles if the company does not substantially improve its 5 per cent pay offer.

Mr Greiville Hawley, the union's national automotive secretary, said that if no more talks took place or negotiations failed, he would recommend an embargo by dockers and lorry drivers to the general executive council.

This threat was meant as seriously as last year's threat to ban imports of the Spanish-built Nova, he said. Workers were angry that Vauxhall's record sales and record imports were not reflected in the pay offer.

There have already been half-day strikes by the TGWU and the engineering union at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, and guerrilla stoppages by workers at Luton, Bedfordshire. Mass meetings have voted not to hold further negotiations unless the company makes a new offer.

Stop stewards representing half Vauxhall's 15,000 hourly paid workers lobbied Mr Hawley and Mr Alex Kitson, the TGWU deputy general secretary, yesterday.

Mr Hawley said: "I have not been approached for some considerable time with the kind of difficulties that these lads are having with this organisation."

# TRADE OFFICIALS SUGGESTED SHARE SALES ABROAD

# Telecom offer to Japan

BY DAVID GOODHART

A REVEALING insight into Anglo-Japanese trade relations is unveiled in a confidential Department of Trade and Industry briefing on recent talks between the two countries on telecommunications.

Department officials, accompanied by senior British Telecom (BT) personnel, suggested to their Japanese opposite numbers in the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) that the British Government "might decide to sell shares in BT outside the UK and that Japan might be one possible market in which shares would either be sold to the public or placed with individual large firms."

The briefing continues candidly: "The Japanese find it difficult to believe that we were serious in suggesting a Japanese shareholding in BT and pointed out that in Japan there was a law preventing any foreign shareholding in Japanese communications companies."

The British officials were not, however, put off by the Japanese astonishment.

They pointed out that the Japanese Government is itself closely considering how best to sell to the private sector Nippon Telephone and Telegraph (NTT) - which operates domestic communications - and that new legislation could alter the existing prohibition on foreign shareholding.

During the committee stage of the last BT privatisation Bill, which fell before the last election, the Government said there would be some restrictions on the selling of shares outside the UK to "unfriendly countries".

Recent anxieties expressed by stockbrokers about disruption from the size of the BT sale, however, may have increased the Government's interest in selling to acceptable foreign countries.

Another passage in the briefing appears to confirm some of the dangers to BT's manufacturing industry from privatisation - highlighted by British manufacturers.

The briefing states: "We drew attention to the difference in attitude between BT and NTT when considering foreign procurement."

"BT was scouring the Japanese market to identify appropriate products for their portfolio. Could not NTT use their London office at least to inspect and report on British products worthy of consideration?"

The MPT did agree to put pressure on NTT to examine British products, and also undertook to look at the possibilities of mutual access to type approval procedure.

He also emphasised that, although Ford had now stopped offer-

ing extra incentive bonuses, that did not necessarily mean an end to discounting in the retail end of the trade.

Vauxhall-Opel, the General Motors subsidiary, immediately welcomed the move last night "if it is going to stop the current disorderly marketing."

However, Austin Rover, BL's volume car business, was much more cautious in its reaction - possibly because it attempted a similar strategy at the beginning of 1982 to the one now proposed by Ford.

Instead of its rivals following Austin Rover's lead, the discounting continued and the company's market share fell in the first quarter of last year from 20.8 to 16.6 per cent.

"We want to see what actually happens first before we commit ourselves," said Austin Rover's spokesman. "We have heard talk about a return to orderly marketing before and it has not happened."

# Europe's audio-video boom

BY GUY DE JONQUIERES

WESTERN Europe is now the world's largest market for audio-video products, far exceeding the value of sales in the U.S. and Japan, according to a study by Macintosh International, the market research company. Demand is particularly high in Britain.

The study estimates that total retail spending on audio-video products in European countries rose by 12.4 per cent to \$23.4bn (£15.7bn) last year, almost equal to the combined spending of \$14bn in the U.S. and \$12bn in Japan. The study points out, however, that retail

prices were also highest in Europe.

The growth in Europe was led by a 42 per cent increase in industry shipments of video cassette recorders (VCRs) to 5.2m units and by record shipments of colour television sets, totalling 12.8m units.

Britain was by far the biggest market for VCRs, accounting for a 47 per cent of all machines sold in Europe last year. VCR penetration in the UK is the world's highest, and the study expects 27 per cent of British homes to have machines by the end of this year.

It forecasts that the recent curbs on Japanese VCR exports to the EEC will encourage increased VCR production in Europe. It expects the number of European production centres to rise to at least 14 by the end of this year, against only two in 1981.

The colour television market was boosted by growing demand for portable sets, accounting for more than 20 per cent of sales. Britain was the largest national market, taking almost 3m sets.

Macintosh International, International Strategy and Information Service, Napier Road, Luton LU1 1RG.

# Ford chief offers truce in the car war

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

FORD's offer to call a truce in the new car discount war brought a mixed response yesterday from its main rivals but an enthusiastic reaction from its dealers.

Mr Sam Toy, the Ford of Britain chairman, attempted to bring an end to hostilities - which are estimated to have cost the industry £40m to £50m in extra incentives in August alone - when he said: "As the leading manufacturer, it is our responsibility to take the initiative and lead the industry back to more sensible marketing. We are getting out of the business of incentives. We hope the industry will follow."

Mr Toy said Ford would give its rivals at least two months to consider their position. He made it clear, however, that if they did not follow this lead Ford would not allow itself or its dealers to become uncompetitive - "We will get in and mix it," he threatened.

He also emphasised that, although Ford had now stopped offer-

ing extra incentive bonuses, that did not necessarily mean an end to discounting in the retail end of the trade.

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# Reactor talks to start

BY DAVID FISLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN's plans to collaborate with five other European nations in the development of the commercial fast breeder reactor will not preclude future collaboration with the U.S. and Japan.

This guarantee was given by Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, when he confirmed yesterday that Britain is to "open formal negotiations to seek agreement on joint development of fast reactors with

France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands."

The plan is to achieve a wide-ranging collaboration covering research, design, the electricity industries and the governments of the six partners.

Mr Walker said Britain was "among the world leaders" in fast reactor technology. By joining the European club Britain expected to gain technically and economically.

# TUC CONGRESS AT BLACKPOOL

# Unions urged to resist Labour policy changes

BY DAVID GOODHART

FAILURES within the Labour Party were largely responsible for the Conservative election victory in June this year, but there was no case for changing the main planks of Labour's policy, Mr Sam McCloskie, chairman of the Labour Party, told delegates at the TUC Congress yesterday.

"If there is something wrong with the Labour Party there is something wrong with you, because you are the ones that set the tone for Labour policy," he said.

"It would be wrong for us to over-react to the defeat on June 9 by de-

molishing central pillars of our policies and platform."

Mr McCloskie also called for an end to the growing speculation about a weakening of the traditional bonds between the Labour Party and the TUC.

He did, however, reflect some of the growing doubts among union leaders about the possibility of a return to full employment. "Whether we can ever get everyone back to work or not, I'm not sure, but we can at least try with sensible socialist policies," he said.

# Move for votes reform fails

LEFT-LED efforts to reverse the success of right-wing unions in the TUC general election system for the TUC general council failed yesterday when Congress voted decisively against an attempt to return to the old voting method, Philip Bassett writes.

The TUC voted in 1981 for a change in the system of electing the council. Based on voting by the whole Congress, organised in groups according to trade, this led to patronage by the largest unions, and the TUC in 1982 voted for a new system which gave seats automatically to unions with more than 100,000 members, and 11 seats to unions smaller than that.

Many smaller, left-led unions, robbed of the protection of the larger unions, have campaigned actively against the changes, and the campaign culminated yesterday in an open attempt by one of the most active unions, the television technicians' union, ACTT, to put to next year's Congress proposals for a revamped version of the old system.

Mr Alan Sapper, ACTT general secretary, said the new system had been and still was divisive. The old system was accused of patronage, but that patronage was still there - it had now passed to the smaller unions.

# Unions agree to meet SDP

UNION LEADERS will, after all, discuss trade union reform with David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), in spite of a rebuff to them last week from a number of major unions who disagree with SDP policy on union reforms, John Lloyd writes.

The first union to meet him on September 22 will be the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the union, said yesterday that since the TUC was likely to vote to further talks with Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, he could see no reason for refusing to talk to other political groups.

Much more surprising is the decision by the Bakers' Union, one of the most strongly left-wing of the TUC's affiliates, to talk to Dr Owen - in spite of its opposition to talks with Mr Tebbit.

Mr Joe Marina, the union's general secretary, said he had telephoned the SDP's office to suggest that Dr Owen visited the bakers' London headquarters to discuss their views.

Dr Owen yesterday urged delegates at Blackpool to take decisions which reflected evidence of cross-party allegiances of rank-and-file members.

# FOCUS ON SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

# Gencor — a powerful industrial structure based on gold and platinum

BY RICHARD ROLFE

In a further part of the series on South African commerce and industry, Richard Rolfe, editor of Finance Week, Johannesburg, interviews Mr. Ted Pavitt, executive chairman of Gencor.

Rolfe: The Gencor group is the result of the merger of General Mining and Union Corporation. Could you tell us more about it?

Pavitt: The group's history dates back to 1895, not very long after the discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand. In 1980 General Mining and Union Corporation merged to form General Mining Union Corporation (Gencor), the second largest mining house in South Africa with wide-ranging interests in mining, industry and finance.

Rolfe: The industrial sector was the largest divisional contributor to group profits last year. Is this significant?

Pavitt: Our industrial interests are fundamental to the group, not only because of their contribution to group profits, but because we believe this sector can be contra-cyclical to our mining interests. However, Gencor always has been, and will remain, primarily a mining house. Gencor operates 14 gold and/or uranium mines which last year produced 3.5 million oz of gold, or 16 per cent of the country's production, and contributed 21 per cent of South Africa's uranium. Gencor last year produced 30 per cent of the country's coal. Furthermore, we are major producers of platinum, asbestos, fluorspar and chrome.

Rolfe: Nearly a third of your income last year was derived from gold and uranium. Do you expect this proportion to continue?

Pavitt: I expect the proportion of income from gold and uranium to remain high while we are in an economic depression. However, as the industrial sector picks up, the proportions will obviously change. For 1983-84 output is expected to remain at the same levels, but when Beatrix mines come into production in 1984-85, the proportion will rise. This will, of course, depend on the gold price and whether the balance in the portfolio is maintained.

Rolfe: You have major interests in two developing mines, Beisa and Beatrix. How are they being funded and what are their prospects?

Pavitt: Beisa, which is a primary uranium producer with gold as a by-product, is fully funded, but because of depressed uranium markets its outlook is not particularly exciting. Beisa was funded through loans, equity and utilisation of St Helena's tax base. We, however, have a water problem, namely an inflow of six million gallons a day, double what was expected.

At the current gold price, Beatrix, which is expected to cost some R450 million, has a promising future. Developments to date have been financed by shareholders' loans, but longer-term funding is now being investigated. However, whatever route we take, the public must come in, but this doesn't preclude the use of loans as part of the financing.

You will remember that when we funded Unisel, we increased the loan element considerably above the normal South African ratios of 60 per cent equity to 40 per cent debt.

Rolfe: You have important platinum interests through Impala. How do you expect platinum to perform in relation to gold?

Pavitt: Assuming the present gradual improvement in the major world economies continues, we believe the free market price of platinum will remain at a premium to gold. The present fluctuations in the price of platinum are determined by speculative forces and the situation will stay unchanged until physical demand for platinum improves.

The viability of recycling platinum from discarded automotive catalytic exhaust systems is a function of the price received for the recovered platinum and the recovery costs. It is difficult to say at what price recycling could become viable, but I would think it would be higher than the current free market price. The big problem, as you can imagine, is the collection process. This can only be done by people, which, in the United States, makes it a prohibitively expensive process.

Rolfe: Do you foresee a softening in Japanese demand for platinum as the jewellery market there becomes more familiar with gold?

Pavitt: The jewellery market in Japan is already very familiar with gold. We do not foresee any erosion in the present demand for platinum and we are, in fact, encouraged by the active promotion being undertaken by several companies in the Japanese platinum jewellery industry. In fact, excess metal on the free market is still being steadily absorbed by this market sector, which is now the largest consumer of platinum world wide.

Rolfe: What is your prognosis for coal exports?

Pavitt: Exporters are facing the aftermath of over-reaction in 1980-81. The euphoria resulted in export

capacity being substantially increased. The present recession has meant that consumers are overstocked. Supply and demand can only be expected to come into balance by 1986.

South African exporters who traditionally compete for market share and price with the United States, Canada, Australia, Poland, Russia and China, are finding themselves with unsold tonnage. Unfortunately this has led to price cutting amongst South African exporters, with prices drifting down to break-even and below. This dilemma will be aggravated next year when the coal-handling capacity of Richards Bay is further increased. Future cost pressures will, undoubtedly, force exporters to increase price levels or accept losses.

Rolfe: Have lower oil prices had a serious impact on the coal industry?

Pavitt: Current oil prices haven't had a material effect on the industry, as the price of coal is presently at between 60-70 percent discount on heat parity with oil. In fact, should the reduction in oil prices assist in the recovery of the world economy, it would benefit coal consumption and lead to an increase in demand.

Coal volumes and price will improve in 1985 as the coal industry is subject to the same economic cycles experienced by other market sectors. Coal exports are expected to peak in 1987, followed by a slight downward trend when supply and demand imbalances might again lead to a price depression because of the lead and lag between supply and demand.

Gencor, however, has every faith in profitably expanding its future coal exports to fill the allocations available to us.

Rolfe: Do you envisage any recovery in the uranium market?

Pavitt: We believe that the stock levels being held by customers are coming down and that next year supply and demand will be in better balance, with the market turning in 1985. An improvement is already detectable with the spot price having picked up from \$17 to \$24 in the last few months. However, we expect market conditions to remain difficult in the immediate future.

Rolfe: What will be Gencor's next mining project?

Pavitt: In the gold sector we have Eendracht, in the Evander field, which we will develop at the appropriate time, possibly using Bracken's plant. There is also a large area in the Free State, opposite Orkney, which we could possibly exploit, using Stillfontein's plant when that mine's operations cease. We also have ground north of Beisa and east of Beatrix which looks promising.

Rolfe: Notwithstanding the group's mining base, Gencor's industrial interests have become increasingly important over the past decade. Do you envisage any major developments in this sector?

Pavitt: The importance of this sector becomes evident when you consider that last year it contributed 35.4 percent to the group's attributable earnings. Growth of our industrial interests is a continuing



Mr. Ted Pavitt, executive chairman, Gencor

process, which is currently dominated by the R800 million expansion programme by Sappi, the largest paper and pulp producer in Africa.

Kohler's acquisition of Dickinson Robinson group's SA interests is part of the Gencor group's growth philosophy of moving into the full spectrum of the packaging industry. Haggie has just completed a major stage of growth by acquisition; its balance sheet indicates substantially under-utilised cash resources which could be deployed in major growth opportunities in future.

Earlier this year Darling and Hodgson acquired a majority interest in Group Five Engineering which, it is anticipated, will materially strengthen the group's position in the civil engineering and related fields. In addition, Kanhyam, the first farming company to obtain a listing on The Johannesburg Stock Exchange, last year completed the full absorption of the Karoo group with its large interests in meat.

You should keep in mind that we also have strategic holdings in various companies. We have a 10 percent interest in Siemens, as an example, and we believe that this close association will encourage Siemens to make use of Gencor's heavy engineering facilities.

Projects and possible acquisitions are continually considered, bearing in mind the balance of the portfolio, and we intend ensuring that the overall growth of the industrial sector continues no less rapidly than in the past.

Rolfe: What will Gencor's main strategy be in the foreseeable future?

Pavitt: The present pattern is unlikely to change radically and future growth will take place through additions to existing structures. I also believe we should continue to aim at aggressive growth, particularly in the industrial sector, but only in those areas in which we are already established.

Another important consideration for a group of our size and structure is to become more international. In the past we have, for very good reasons, concentrated on South Africa. We now need to seek opportunities overseas, initially in the mining field. For this reason we have purchased an interesting gold prospect in Brazil in partnership with Brazilian associates and it is currently being subjected to an in-depth technical evaluation and feasibility study. Our exploration activities also continue in Australia, where we already have mining interests.

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## THE ARTS

## Manet at Work/National Gallery

William Packer

## The First Impressionist reassessed

Edouard Manet died a hundred years ago this year at the comparatively early age of 51. Until the late onset of an incurable disease he had been at the height of his power, and at last, after the controversy and notoriety of his early career, secure in the enjoyment of a general reputation. The scope of his achievement was astonishing, in range as much as in originality, technique and authority, with perhaps most remarkable of all the extraordinary sequence of masterpieces that he, barely into his thirties, produced in the 1860s—*Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe*, so casually shocking and his *Olympia*, the most magnificent work of the century, among them.

He was loved and respected by his peers and we too have always known him to be important, and even suspected him of greatness; and just like his friends, we have not been quite sure why. Degas' terse tribute at his friend's death has been perhaps too lightly disregarded: "He was greater than we thought."

Movements in Art are so easily taken as more than they are; and all too soon, where artists have worked to an instinctive or tacit programme for a moment, the historian sets out convenient hermetic categories. Impressionism, a critic's jibe that stuck, is just such a case: the more we look at it the harder it is to see that it all should be crammed into the same box. Suddenly the now dubious whole interests us rather less than the parts; and at just such a moment the work of Manet, the First Impressionist, that has been standing by so quietly for so long, comes into its own.

It has proved to be a triumphant moment; the great Manet Retrospective at the Grand Palais has been one of the sights of Paris throughout the summer, as it is sure to be of New York this autumn (at the Metropolitan Museum from September 10 until November 27), and it is a revelation.

What it demonstrates so forcibly is that far from being a mere hazy, protean and mentor to more substantial talents than his own, Manet can now be seen clearly as one of the great pivotal figures in the history of painting. It is now hard to see how the very different artists as Degas, and Manet could each have gone so far and fast in his work without Manet's lead. The principal fascination now lies in Manet's



Detail from "Portrait of Eva Gonzales"

own position as a great master in the great tradition of European painting.

It was to Spain in particular that he looked, and not only to Goya, whose spirited banding and openly expressive material makes him the most obvious and immediate influence, but also to natural extension to Velázquez, perhaps the greatest of all painters, whose humane and ironical realism and innate refinement and delicacy of touch, so deceptively light and easy, make him in fact the more profound influence of the two.

Manet, a Realist before ever he was an Impressionist, is closer to the Royal Dwarves of the Prado, and the Maids of Honour, than to the overt polemic of the Third of May. He stands with Courbet at the point where that realist tradition is being turned by a more modern sensibility; and, encouraged by Baudelairean precept to be the painter of Modern Life, he was to be the one to turn away from improving or sentimental genre to the life of the café, the boulevard, and pleasure garden.

Yet his ambition remained cast in an earlier mould, his great compositions most care-

fully contrived machines, his *Déjeuner* so shocking not at all for its actual but rather for its conceptual realism, the very idea. He was a painter always babbler in the studio than in the open air, *sur le motif*.

Nothing seems buried or fudged, no matter that the effective mark may be but the barest, loosest suggestion. And where the image is taken to the fullest realisation, the paint, texture, line, all retain nevertheless that characteristic ease and certainty.

But the great show, the first major survey of his life's work in 50 years, does not come here. We have Manet's here, of course—the wonderful Bar at the Folies Bergères, his last masterpiece and the triumphant finale to the show, is usually safe at home at the Courtauld Institute; but the mass of those not in France are in America. Our National Gallery, however, has done its bit, and though necessarily modest, it is a commendable effort. It is an intelligent, resourceful and useful statement, a true complement to the larger celebration.

The device is simple: Manet at Work takes some eight of his

paintings to stand for the several aspects of his work and to span his career: Manet the engraver, the portrait painter, the painter of modern life, Manet of the *Déjeuner*, *The Balcony*, *The Execution of Maximilian*, the waiter in *The Brasserie*, the boats at *Argenteuil*. The examples are taken from what was to be the gallery's own collection, or could be readily borrowed, and all backed up with reference and photographic documentation. What comes through it all, through Michael Wilson's engaging and informed scholarship (there is an excellent handbook-cum-catalogue), is that it is to the painting as painting that we must look for the painter's final vindication.

We first see Manet in the Tuileries Gardens of the Second Empire, making rapid notes of his friends on the spot, and yet looking to the whole genre of the public promenade and the fresco gathering, indeed to Velázquez's cavaliers in particular, to supply the broader context.

There he is in the country with his friend Monet, making the direct and fluent study for the later, more careful version: now he is fixing the composition of his picnic in the woods with reference to the old masters: now painting the portrait, so beautifully fresh, of young Fanny Claus, who is to be one of his model friends upon *The Balcony*; now cutting the canvas up to tinker with the arrangement of the waiter and her customers in *An Café*; now working from photographs of Mexican soldiers for the *Execution of the Emperor*, yet indifferent to the literal niceties of uniform and circumstance: now adapting his own image of a dead to a print of a victim of the Commune: now painting and repainting the head of his young student, Eva Gonzales, some forty times to the wry irritation of Berthe Morisot, another of his many friends.

We see the painter at work, as it might be any painter—for there is a community of practice in general terms—looking, studying, rethinking, trying things out, having another go, trying to have all to get things right. But this is special: the painter is Manet, an artist, pace Degas, who is indeed greater than we might once have thought him. He continues At Work until October 9.

The exhibition has strobetted itself to its furthest limits this year with Turkey the host nation and "Anatolian Civilisations" the subject of the displays which have erupted throughout Istanbul—although only on the European side of that secretive city.

Since Anatolia is today Turkey but was traditionally the heart of Mediterranean Asia the exhibition might seem to have slipped into another continent. Such a view would hardly be sustained after a visit, and contribution to European history, including, of course, art history, is immense. The organisers have taken the long, 100,000 year, view of the subject, and the arrival from the east of the Turks just after 1000 AD and the cultural innovations of the Ottomans is little more than a grand finale.

If the purpose of art exhibitions is to educate, Anatolian Civilisations must be judged a great success. It is an important event for the Turks, the first major art show in the country, and 5,000 objects have been gathered together not to glorify the present Government, or Turkish history, but to stress the antiquity of the country and the contributions of the many civilisations that occupied the land. A modern Turk leaving the main display in St Irene, Justinian's domed basilica of the 6th century

would feel that he was as much the descendant of Greeks and Romans, Hittites and Trojans, as of Suleyman the Great. St Irene is the kernel of the exhibition, with displays ranging from the neolithic through the grand Greek and Roman statues of the Pergamon school to the intricacies of Byzantine church furniture. (Byzantium is the least well served here of the Anatolian civilisations but then it is a surprise on visiting Istanbul to discover how little tangible of the Roman Empire in the East survives as against the copious written records which were safely transported to the west.)

But portrait busts of Roman emperors are the small change of British museums. More compelling are the early exhibits. It is humbling to compare the decorated pots of the 6th century BC with similar objects of 2000 years later: progress seems minimal and the march of civilisation no more than running on the spot. Then suddenly the Hatti civilisation, from 2500 BC to 2000 BC, produced metalwork of great delicacy: the motif of the Exhibition is a votive offering, twin gods, hands clasped, delicate and chaste, a symbol for millions.

The exhibition does much to rehabilitate the Hatti, who disappeared from history when they were absorbed by the Hittites. Now much that was

of Hatti origin is known to have survived and influenced later generations, and the Hatti deserve some of the prominence given to their contemporary but distant settlers of Anatolia, the people of Troy. Rather heavy gold Trojan jewellery is on show but, as throughout the exhibition, the destruction and dispersal of Anatolian cultures by unscientific 19th-century archaeologists, has forced contemporary scientific researchers to make the most of disturbed sites and buried remnants.

Many of the finest works of the classical period are now in foreign museums—in London, East Berlin, Paris—but modern taste has moved away from the monumental, and the small 2nd century BC Greek terracotta figure of Aphrodite and the marble bronzes of roaring lions now seem the highest manifestations of early art.

The Topkapı Palace, has naturally been exploited for the displays of Ottoman art, the expected miniatures, embroideries, arms and ivories are on show, areas where artists, forbidden by religion to express themselves through portraiture, found expression in intricate and ornate. This is art produced by state craftsmen with prodigious resources at their command, but the brassness and extravagance is always balanced by skill and subtlety.

A commendable feature of the exhibition is the didactic

shows. In the Ibrahim Pasa Palace, which overlooks the site of the Hippodrome, there are, along with the carpets and costumes, scenes of Turkish life, showing with all the relevant objects preparations for ceremonies like circumcision and wedding practices, which in rural areas of Turkey are performed today with little change from past centuries.

The Ottoman era comes into its own with some specialist shows which are unique in their comprehensiveness. In the Military Museum there is a display of tents, but tents used by campaigning sultans and decorated with embroidered robes of Istanbul.

In the headquarters of the Whiting Dervishes there are musical instruments, calligraphed with miniatures of the instruments in play, and, back in the Topkapı, rooms are given over to jewels, calligraphy and coins.

Spreading the exhibition over many sites avoids indigestion and enables peripheral collections to make an impact. Opposite the Archaeological Museum there is a garden decorated with tombstones tracing the different attitudes of the Anatolian civilisations to commemorating the dead. The Greek stones show funeral banquets; the Christian pieces expectations; the Islamic calligraphic resignation.

The exhibition closes on October 30, 1983.

## Symphony in C/Covent Garden

Clement Crisp

The New York City Ballet season ended on Saturday after two performances ablaze with the light of the company's special genius, that life-enhancing, intoxicating affirmation of beautifully ordered classic form. Behind each step there is a joy in what we see and stimulates like ozone.

Balanchine style demands an assurance, speed, a physical integrity that is puritanical in its avoidance of decoration or factitious charm: the dance is there to be danced, not "sold" on terms of personality, or offered like an Alexandra Rose Day emblem in the cause of charity. Behind each step there is an image whose theatrical form and quality Balanchine knew and made his dancers discover: the power implicit in a simple stretch of the leg, or even in the tight, alert fifth position of the feet, poured into the choreography, and was shaped by it. After two weeks immersion in this exhilaration, ballet without NYCB clarity and drive seems airless, thin stuff.

Saturday's performances, with Agon and *Dividbündel*,

finze, or *Mozartiana* and *The Cenci*, both followed by *Symphony in C*, proclaimed the wealth of NYCB in ballerinas. The company does not call them ballerinas, but in a Western world dreadfully short of women who dance this title—its connotations of authority, command of an art, even in most European troupes—NYCB has presented principals magnificent in their range as in their variety of physical and emotional presence.

In *Mozartiana* and *Dividbündel* Suzanne Farrell showed dancing of inspired musical control and temperamental nuance, entirely born of the music; in *Symphony in C*, Merrill Ashley drew the choreography in sunlight, while Kyra Nichols fashioned the dance with love and generosity, and Lisa Hess and Melinda Roy and Katrina Killian sparkled like young divinities. Heather Watts in *Agon*, *Symphony in C*, *Dividbündel*, offered wonderfully contrasted aspects of her incisive, intense dance style; Maris Calegarri in *Agon*

and *Gershwin Concerto*, as in every role this season, revealed a precision of line and utterance that made the dance pristine in shape and energy. Karin von Arolingen, the heart of *Dividbündel*, gave life to the score and gave it life for us.

The beautiful Stephanie Saland had a warmth of feeling exactly matched by her lustrous dancing in *Dividbündel*; Lourdes Lopez, Judith Fugate, Elyse Stearns, and the list could go on—demonstrated the wealth of talent ready to assume the greatest leading roles.

Among the men the season has been especially rewarding for Ib Andersen—whose performance in *Mozartiana* Saturday night was without flaw, sweetly perfect and sublime in ease—for the young Jock Soto, for Joseph Duell (exceptional in *Divertimento No. 15*), for Sean Lavery, Bart Cook, Jean-François Frolich and Kippling Houston.

The glories of the Balanchine repertory—notably of the late masterpieces, with *Mozartiana* telling how genius can pare

away feeling and movement to an irreducible and burningly intense minimum and people a stage and our minds with just three principals, four soloists and four little girls—have been too long. Jerome Robbins' new pieces, John Taras' *Sourcil de Florence* and Peter Martins' *Concerto for two solo pianos* (a fearsome score recently comprehended) have told how NYCB can still develop.

It has been, I would hazard, the most successful NYCB season in London. It was too short. The next visit—which must come within three years, please—should be longer. The season was made possible by the Midland Bank, and by the American Friends of Covent Garden, through inspiring and most generous sponsorship. Commercial support for some of the small, struggling enterprises: we see it plainly but futile: adding sums to try and rescue piddling activities. Major support for great companies like NYCB permanently enhances the life of the nation.

## Peter Grimes/New Theatre, Cardiff

Max Loppert

The Welsh National Opera Peter Grimes, which opened at Cardiff on Friday, is not wholly new. John Copley's production, Michael Stennett's costumes, conductor Richard Armstrong and the three principals were first assembled in 1978, but Henry Bardons' sets, now much praised at the time, have been replaced by Robin Don's. Except in one important respect, renewed effort has been rewarded with success: this is a *Grimes* traditional in the best sense, true to the text but, more important, truthfully, freshly, and feelingly given.

The production is, as one might expect, practical and practical in outline—and, as one might perhaps have expected less, almost wholly free of Copleyish embellishment. The New Stage cramps the opera's public scenes a little, yet the

lines of down activity and later of Borrough's entry run quite as clearly as of the more intimate scenes (the handling of the women's quartet is especially admirable).

So much rings true that two details—both concerning Ellen: her goldrimmed spectacles and the stagey way she is left among the crowd at the close—ring truer than they might otherwise have done. The new permanent set, changed by the rise and fall of the stage, is a ramp disclosing at its rear a wide sea, upon which John Waterhouse's projections and lighting play with a marvelous awareness of the way sea weather charts the poetic and emotional progress of the opera. Grimes' but looks improbable; the rest supplies a useful and convincing frame.

The cast moves naturally

within its bounds. Josephine Bardons' Ellen is a wonderfully moving combination of repressed intensity and sudden repose; the voice, which might be thought too idiosyncratic for the music, takes to it with extraordinary elegance. Terence Sharpe's Balstrode is the more effective for his seeming ordinariness; the Borough notables, including Helen Watts (Mrs Sedley), Donald Maxwell (Ned Keene), and an unusually vivid and powerful sung Bob Bole from Arthur Davies, are free from the exaggerations that now attend the famous Royal Opera Grimes.

But in the title role John Mitchellson, though he shapes the line with much greater fluency than most other tenors of his vocal weight, lacks a genuine theatrical presence. Through well-meant and often

quite well-taken stage manoeuvres one seems to watch a hard-working singer, not a real character; this inevitably dulls, to some extent, the force of the whole presentation.

If this is the show's weakness, the evening of Richard Armstrong (with splendid playing and singing from chorus and orchestra) remains its outstanding strength. At first, urgency and vigour threatened to overpower the listener, though in a small theatre fine instrumental detail is much more easily appreciated, crude force is a much closer danger. But from the second act the balance of the performance was caught, and held; and in, for example, his way of placing the passacaglia at the very pivot of the action, the keenness of Mr Armstrong's approach was made manifest.

## OBITUARY

## John Gilpin

The English dancer, teacher and producer John Gilpin died, after a heart attack early on Monday morning. He was 53 years old. Born in Southsea, in 1930, John Gilpin studied dancing at the Cane-Ripman school, and made his stage debut as a child actor before joining Ballet Rambert in 1945. His youthful good looks and his already elegant technique swiftly won him principal roles in the company. He was a superbly graceful and most shrewdly chosen dancer in many of the company's roles (memorably in Dolin's *Variations for Four*) and if there is one image that ballet-goers vividly retain of Gilpin as a dancer, it is as the exultant, shining leading man in Lander's *Etudes*.

John Gilpin made guest appearances with many ballet companies, and he was for several years artistic director of Festival Ballet. His career as a dancer was curtailed by ill-health, and he bravely faced the problems that came as a result of his illness, dealing frankly with them in his autobiography. After he had ceased dancing, he worked in several countries as a teacher and producer. He was twice married; first to the dancer Sally Jud, and most recently—in July this year—to Princess Antoinette of Monaco. The great charm and generosity of manner that marked John Gilpin's performances, and which won him such public acclaim, were no less his as a private person; he possessed grace of spirit.

CLEMENT CRISP

## Edinburgh transfers

The best, and the best publicised, of the Edinburgh Festival, is now filtering down to London. The Stary Theatre of Glasgow, which opens at the Riverside tomorrow with a Wajda adaptation of "The Idiot," is perhaps the most significant but, for the light hearted, comedian John Sessions is currently performing out in the least likely direction, and there is John McEneaney fulfilling a life time dream of serving behind the counter at Wimbledon Post Office. Much of it is very funny, some of it tedious, but Sessions is talented and likeable. An agreeable evening. The show runs until Sunday.

## Arts Guide

## Opera and Ballet

LONDON

English National Opera, Coliseum: David Blake's *Toussaint*, a flawed but at its best powerfully original blend of political opera and Grand Opera, returns to the theatre where it was first performed, but in a radically revised form. Mark Elder (conductor), David Pountney (conductor) and Neil Howlett in the title role are well remembered from the last time, as are Mari Bjornson's brilliantly evocative sets. Further performances of ENO's smash hit *Rigoletto*, and final showings this season of its disappointing *Don Giovanni* revival. (830 3161).

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden: The New York City Ballet finishes a glorious season. See panel. (240 1066).

WEST GERMANY

Berlin Deutsche Oper: Acclaim for Louisa Varady and Vladimir Alantow, conducted by Giuseppe Patane. Alexander Zemlinsky's rarely played *Der Kreidekreis* is of respectable standard. Hoffmann's *Erzählungen*, feature famous Olympic Edda Moser and Luis Lima in the title role, is a Jürgen Flimm production. Donizetti's *Der Liebestrank* rounds off the programme.

Frankfurt Opera: Carmen has Seppo Rauhonen making his debut as Don Jose. Elektra, given for the last time this season, has Daniza Mast-love in the title role. Der Türke in Italian brings together (see Gram-mer) New York State Theater, Lincoln Center (870 5570).

## New York City Ballet tour

September 2-9

The New York City Ballet's six-week European tour beginning at Covent Garden will be a particularly poignant tribute to the company's long-time leader and inspiration, George Balanchine. The repertoire, including 16 of Balanchine's works to be performed with six by Jerome Robbins and three by Peter Martins, will be seen for a fortnight each at the Tivoli Concert Hall in Copenhagen and at the Festival International de la Danse in Paris after Covent Garden. There will be ten European premieres, among them

Balanchine's *Mozartiana* and Robbins' *Piano Pieces*, first performed at the company's 1981 Tchaikovsky Festival. Principal dancers performing in Europe will include Peter Martins, Leonid Koslov and Valentina Kozlova, Suzanne Farrell and Kyra Nichols, associate conductor; and Hugo Florent. On the return in October, the company will begin preparing for their 79th season, opening on November 15.

revival. Die Entführung aus dem Serail closes the week. Cologne Opera: End of season, New season starts on Sept 26. Stuttgart Württembergische Staatsoper: End of season. New season starts on Sept 20. Munich Bayerische Staatsoper: End of season. New season starts on Sept 20.

NEW YORK

New York City Opera: At Press time, the musicians strike continues, cancelling scheduled performances of *The Mikado* but worth checking (assuming the phone company's strike allows). New York State Theater, Lincoln Center (870 5570).

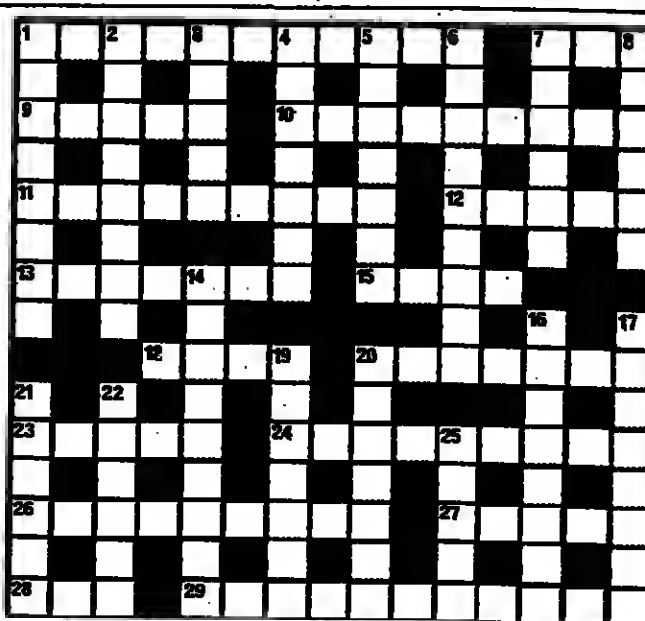
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ACROSS

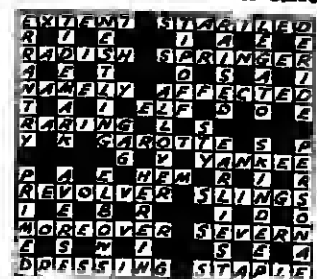
- Novel time for Spring's awakening (11)
- 7 and 28 across: Holiday when one is not at one's best (3, 3)
- They are used for holding coal fires (5)
- Article is made practical (9)
- Realise it is translated into Hebrew (9)
- Hearing test (5)
- It makes sense if it is used to win at cards (7)
- Celebrated Chinese dynasty (4)
- Ruth as an infant? (4)
- Acts for different agents (7)
- Black magic? (5)
- Rag-time band leader was great (9)
- Thought me old fashioned about it (9)
- Once more makes a profit (6)
- See 7 across
- Exact monies may be required to pay them (6, 5)

DOWN

- Mother's pets are dogs (6)
- Credit no other principle (5)
- I sell broken thread (5)
- Change of raiment for a girl (7)
- Publisher's experts or publisher's clients (7)
- Its object is to encourage capital growth (4, 5)
- Not in suitable attire (6)
- Getting a hundred into line is easy (8)
- Scramble at the pig's food (9)
- A port or claret (6)
- Items of clothing used by violinists (1, 7)
- Cat lies injured, stretcher required (7)
- A precious possession one is not bound to have (7)
- What may be said about me is only insinuated (6)
- Fatal delay, perhaps, involves a number (8)



Solution to Puzzle No. 5208



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Tuesday September 6 1983

## Talking shop in Madrid

THOUGH East-West détente seems virtually frozen over, the institution to which it gave birth eight years ago still lives on in a fashion, and this week marks another minor milestone. The Madrid conference, set up to review compliance with the principles of the 1975 Helsinki agreement on Security and Co-operation in Europe, concludes three years of painfully slow negotiations with a ceremonial meeting of foreign ministers, and will pave the way for another set of negotiations, culminating in another review conference in 1986.

On the face of it, the practical result of the long years of talking may seem pitifully small. The document will pay lip-service to the virtues of détente, while implicitly admitting that these virtues are not being observed; yet it seems clear that neither of the two super-powers is showing any interest in the ideas of détente which raised such hopes in the early 1970s. The disappointment is readily explicable. From Moscow's point of view the object of the Helsinki process was to ratify Soviet hegemony over Eastern Europe, from the West's point of view the object was to use the East-West thaw to extract some liberalisation of the Soviet system, even at the margin, or at least to extract a Soviet acknowledgment of the legitimacy of human rights claims. At the time, the Helsinki pact seemed to prompt a slight easing of Soviet restrictions on emigration, but since then the screws have again been tightened.

## Human rights

The new document being approved this week again pays lip-service to human rights, such as the freedom of the individual and the right to join trade unions. But the Soviet Union, having got what it wanted at Helsinki, is not about to liberalise its authoritarian regime just because a piece of paper negotiated in Madrid says it should.

Yet the apparent sterility of the Helsinki process does not make it valueless. President Jimmy Carter needlessly complicated his diplomacy by his constant stress on human rights, but

for the non-Communist world it is helpful to be in a position to assert the legitimacy of certain human rights principles which unites both the members of Nato and neutral and non-aligned countries like Austria and Switzerland.

Moreover, the existence of the Helsinki meetings provides a forum for debate whose potential may yet be more amply filled at some future date. In the current phase of Soviet-U.S. confrontation, the debate may be mainly propaganda; but if there should be another slight thaw, it could become more constructive. From this rather modest point of view, the main achievement of the Madrid conference may be to have secured another three years of life for the review process.

In practical security terms, however, the most important part of the package is an agreement to start negotiations on military confidence-building measures in Europe, from January next year. These will not lead to arms limitations, but the West will seek stricter monitoring of troop movements and manoeuvres so as to reduce the danger of a surprise Soviet attack; the Soviet Union will not doubt renew its propaganda proposals for non-aggression pacts and nuclear-free zones.

In the last analysis, however, the prospects for the Helsinki review process will be determined by the general state of East-West relations, and not the other way round. Mr Yuri Andropov's latest offer in the Euro-missile negotiations seems a step in the right direction, even if it does not go nearly far enough; the Soviet-U.S. grain agreement may be another slightly encouraging sign.

But these little tokens of hope, and such satisfaction as may surround this week's ceremony in Madrid, will not be totally overshadowed by the European airline disaster compounded by Moscow's attempt to explain it away. If Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, has any desire to improve relations with the U.S., he will have a lot of explaining to do when he meets Mr George Shultz in Madrid. Unless, that is, he cancels his trip to Madrid.

## The decline of the regions

REGIONAL POLICY in Britain ought to present a ripe target for a radical Tory government. At a cost of around £500m in direct support from the Department of Industry this year, it produces mixed benefits; and there is widespread agreement about which aspects of policy are least beneficial.

High among the preoccupations of an inter-departmental group in Whitehall that recently put forward regional policy options for ministers has been cost-effectiveness. The existing regional grant structure has done much to encourage capital-intensive investment, much less to generate new jobs. The regional subsidies encourage sub-marginal projects, such as expensive created jobs may be among the first to go in recession.

Another key concern has been the discriminatory nature of the present assisted area structure. The West Midlands, for example, is not designated an assisted area, despite suffering disproportionate misery in the recession. Structural adjustment that might have helped revitalise the West Midlands, for example, is not designated an assisted area, despite suffering disproportionate misery in the recession.

There are, meantime, problems of co-ordination. The interaction of regional policy and urban policy has not in the past, been properly recognised.

It is unfortunate that the Government chose to tackle the middle by setting up an inter-departmental committee, a natural forum for horse-trading, which in this instance failed to achieve a full consensus. The risk is that existing distortions will simply be tinkered with under the euphemism of "more selectivity" and that there will be a shift towards promoting job-intensive investment which in reality will mean subsidising inefficient working practices.

## Labour market

A more radical approach would be to recognise that financial assistance is one of the less important tools of regional policy and restrict it to inward investment by foreign companies, which can provide genuine jobs and an immediate balance of payments gain. There should, however, be a job cost ceiling and deserving candidates like the West Midlands should be eligible for aid. Attention could then focus on

the real issues. The most important of these is the labour market. In an ideal world regional decline would prompt a downward adjustment in local wage rates, which in turn would help attract investment back to the area. In Britain, however, pay bargaining in its relatively insensitive to regional variations in the cost of housing and transport; the response to rigidity in local labour markets tends to be migration to the workforce. Part of the answer could lie in the Government's own backyard, where Civil Service pay might be decentralised or made subject to regional variation. It would be a pity if the Megaw Committee's unenthusiastic verdict on these options were taken as the last word—especially since its terms of reference were narrow.

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"IT WAS essential that the new Letter of Intent mirror the necessary balance between external credibility and internal viability." With that sentence from his formal letter of resignation last Friday as central bank governor of Brazil, Sr Carlos Langoni went straight to the heart of the tumultuous debate within Brazil over the Government's negotiating nine months of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund.

The 39-year-old governor, praised for his academic brilliance and once tipped for higher office, went on to stick the knife in further. "I am convinced that (our) recent experience with the original programme of the International Monetary Fund indicates the difficulty of undertaking such commitments, which can only be reached at an extremely high social cost. Furthermore, these rigid targets are not indispensable to the fundamental objective of the Fund, which is the reduction of the external disequilibrium."

Sr Langoni could not have chosen a more sensitive moment to reveal publicly his change of heart about the effect of the negotiations he had personally led for much of the year. The revised Letter of Intent—Brazil's third in eight months—was waiting on his desk to be signed and returned to Washington.

It was already long overdue, partly as a result of the abortive round of talks with the IMF field team in July and partly because at the last moment the Brazilian side had tried, with some success, to squeeze last-minute concessions out of Mr Jacques de Larosiere, the fund's managing director, during secret talks in Paris last month.

Meanwhile, nerves were becoming extremely frayed in New York, where the 14-bank advisory committee for Brazil meets. Arrangements on bank loan interest had been pushed to the limit, without these loans appearing on third quarter balance sheets as "non-performing assets."

Without the formal go-ahead from Mr de Larosiere the banks were unwilling to unfreeze the \$1.27bn in loans they have held up since May, when Brazil failed to meet the IMF's domestic targets and the whole process of helping the Figueredo Government stay afloat and refinance its \$900m external debt came to a juddering halt. Over the weekend the badly shaken government moved swiftly to brush aside their former "colleagues' criticism and reassured the IMF and foreign creditors that the show was still on the road, almost as previously scheduled.

After a brief intermission to allow Sr Antonio Pastore, the new central bank governor, to read himself in, the Letter of Intent is likely to be signed in its present form. With the revised programme in his hands Mr de Larosiere is then expected to give the go-ahead, and the banks to unlock their loans and start arranging their part of the massive financing needed for



Three leading players in the Brazilian drama. Planning Minister Delino Netto (left) has the support of President Figueredo (centre) for rigorous austerity measures which are described as unworkable by outgoing Central Bank Governor Langoni (right).

"phase 2" of the Brazilian rescue programme, over the next 18 months.

Sr Langoni's defection from the economic troupe headed by Sr Antonio Delino Netto, the veteran Planning Minister, did not come as a total surprise, as his differences with Delino had become increasingly apparent.

But the former bank governor's attack on the credibility of the latest IMF package is sure to stiffen the already overwhelming opposition to it in the federal congress, in the press and among the trade unions.

The opposition parties have now made the rejection in Congress of the new Salary Law—the centrepiece of the Government's austerity measures—the immediate focus of attention.

The Bill would restrict wage rises to 80 per cent of the inflation rate, meaning a big drop in real earnings.

For the opposition the Bill is a test of wills with Sr Delino and an effort to restore the balance between the Legislature and the Executive in Brazil. But for the international banks the passage of the Bill is equally important as a litmus test of the Brazilian Government's resolve and mastery of its own house. "There can be little point in negotiating a tough programme if the Government cannot implement it," a company chairman said privately last week.

On the present outlook, the prospects of the Salary Law getting through the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house,

where a large majority of opposition and government party members have come out against the measure, look slim. Constitutionally Congress has 60 days from its presentation to decide on the bill.

Thereafter, if it is rejected, the President can resort to his overriding powers to bring it into law. But that will not be until the second half of October and it is not clear whether Brazil's liquidity problems can wait that long.

Some opposition politicians have also called for the IMF agreements themselves to be debated, and approved or rejected, by Congress. But this is a demand Sr Delino, who has been reconfirmed by President Figueredo as plenipotentiary for the economy and the IMF

negotiations, is sure to fight tooth and nail.

In his letter of resignation Sr Langoni singled out as unrealistic in the allotted time frame, three key aspects of the new IMF programme. These were:

- The commitment to bring inflation down from an expected 170 per cent this year to an average 55 per cent in 1984, with the monthly rate of increase down to 2.5 per cent by the last quarter.
- The reduction of the public sector deficit from this year's revised target of 0.9 per cent of Gross Domestic Product to zero by the end of 1984.
- The achievement of a current account deficit of between \$6bn and \$8.5bn, compared with this year's likely \$8bn and the 1982 deficit of \$14.7bn.

## WHY THE IMF IS KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE

THERE is much at stake for the International Monetary Fund in its game of brinkmanship with Brazil.

Fund has emerged as the final arbiter of international prudence in the international debt crisis. Without its imprimatur commercial banks simply will not reschedule or pump new money into the worst afflicted countries, as the case of Venezuela showed last week.

To keep its standing in the banking community, the Fund has to show that it is not prepared to be cowed by demands from the debtors for easier terms. In the short term, it might be easier for the IMF to gain an agreement with Brazil by accepting Sr Langoni's argument that the terms now proposed are too tough. But the long run, however, its authority as a disciplinarian would suffer, and banks would no longer

trust its ability to impose the right austerity measures as a backup for billions of dollars in new loans.

The significance of this reaches way beyond Latin America, only two countries—Colombia and Paraguay—have avoided rescheduling this year. It is the banks' faith in the effectiveness of Fund programmes that has prevented financial flows to the whole continent from drying up. Elsewhere, its imprimatur has been pivotal in resolving Yugoslavia's \$20bn foreign debt problems and restoring Portugal's tottering credit rating.

In all this, the role of Mr Jacques de Larosiere, the Fund's managing director, is a lonely and supremely difficult one. What should he do if Brazil's Congress and Government were to refuse to accept a programme that

includes a harsh cut in real wages and balance Government accounts?

By continuing to withhold IMF money from Brazil in these circumstances, he would be condemning the country to effective bankruptcy. Almost certainly, commercial banks would have to start writing off their loans to Brazil and confidence in financial markets could collapse, adding an awesome new dimension to the debt crisis.

On the other hand, by cobbling together a new softer programme, and continuing to disperse loans to Brazil, Mr de Larosiere would effectively be inviting all his other client countries to insist on similar leniency. This, too, would aggravate the debt crisis by slowing the pace of economic adjustment in the debtor country. This is not the first time

that the IMF has been put in such a quandary by the political limitations on its economic adjustment programmes. Brazil just happens to be about the most critical case because of the size of its \$900m foreign debt, and the timing of its problems, right in the middle of a worldwide debt crisis.

So far, all the signs are that the IMF is determined to stick to its hardline approach. Its credibility was already battered by the failure in May of its first programme for Brazil.

"It has," says one banker, "to apply just enough medicine to cure the disease without killing the patient." This is its second chance to get the dosage right. Everybody concerned knows that there may not be another.

Peter Montagnon

## Men &amp; Matters

## Carey's industry

The secret that Sir Peter Carey guarded so jealously while he was taking White House talks at assorted levels during the long Oxford vacation.

Although 270 businessmen wished him well for the future at the separate parties the wily mandarin—10 years as permanent secretary at the Department of Industry—fended off all speculation about his future apart from admitting that at least one prospective job was being vetted by the Government's Diamond Committee which oversees all Civil Service outside appointments.

Bill Mackworth—Young, who is also chairman of the Committee on Invisible Exports, has slotted Carey into the highest echelons of the bank to act as a sort of overseer on industrial matters to the executive sections of the bank. The job will be for three days a week. Carey is taking on industry's behemoth from secure City base Carey will prove a doughty fighter. Almost his last act before retiring from the Department of Industry was to save the Treasury from paying enough attention to improving industry's performance.

## Family service

With a bare 48 hours left before the expiry of his bid for Waddington, the Monopoly group, Robert Maxwell took no chances yesterday over the delivery of the British Printing and Communication Corporation's interim figures to the FT.

## Wrong reaction

The needling point that SCRAM the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Reactor was hoping to make by selling its bright yellow "postcards" to Edinburgh Festival visitors seems to have been blunted.

These postcards, captioned "Pressurised Water Reactor," show the prominent eyes and smiling face of Sir Walter Marshall, CBE chairman looming over a sketch of the PWR. But Lady Marshall likes it—and her man is so delighted at the accolade of being commemorated on a postcard that he has bought a whole batch of them.

SCRAM, which is opposed to all nuclear reactors but especially the PWR, takes its name, not only from the acronym, but from a time-honoured bit of nuclear industry jargon—the "scram" or fast shutdown of a reactor in trouble.

A young physicist in the team which commissioned the world's first nuclear reactor was given the job of shutting it down in an emergency.

The procedure was quite simple. A metal rod was by a rope tied to a handy rail. If the rod fell into the reactor, it would absorb neutrons and shut the reaction down.

The scientist was banded an axe and told that if the needle on a big dial got to a certain point, he should chop through the rope "and scram."

## Pledge unsigned

Today's first annual meeting of Business in the Community (BIC), the organisation set up by the great and the good to encourage more community involvement by British industry, coincides with the appointment of Bill Bowman, group personnel director of United Bis-

uits UK, as chairman of the London Enterprise Agency (LEA).

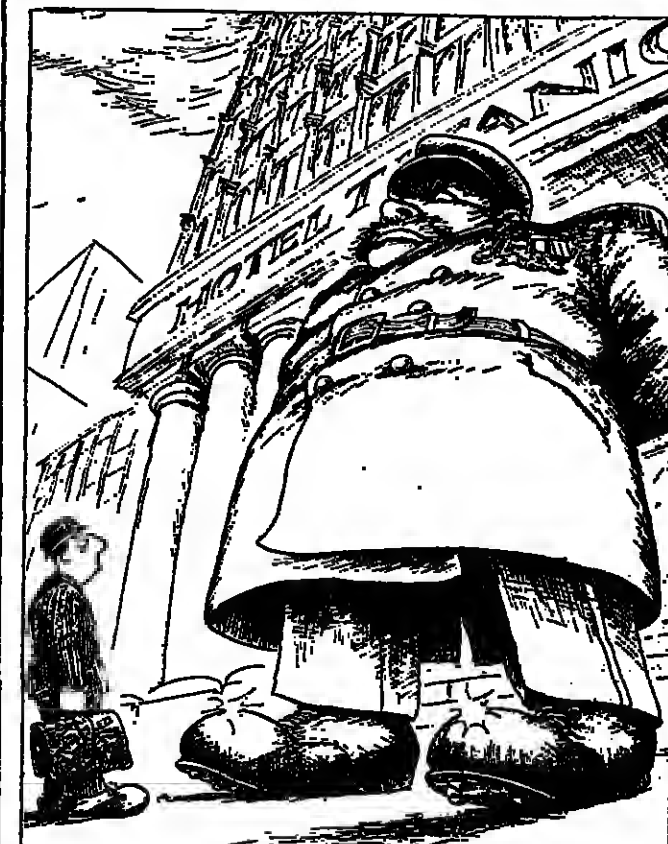
Bowman, who succeeds Shell UK director Sir J. Gallagher, is well qualified for the LEA job as he is already involved in support for local enterprises. He was chairman of the steering committee to set up the One Per Cent Club—a brain-child of his chairman, the US Sir Hector Laing under which member firms would each year commit 1 per cent of their profits to the community.

I must also report that although this idea has been widely canvassed and discussed by interested parties not a single company has yet formally signed the pledge.

United Biscuits' community activities, meanwhile, come in particularly handy at a time when its operations in some parts of the country are contracting. The company's initiative in that direction is certainly intended to soothe the pain of Merseyside where the proposed run-down of the Liverpool plant threatens the jobs of 2,000 workers.

## Dog's life

A \$26,000-a-year dog catcher in Montgomery County, Maryland, has been suspended after spending his working hours for the last year on a half reading and listening to classical music. He claims to be allergic to dogs. Dennis McCarthy, 67, a public employee, says that he was transferred to the county dog-catching division against his will, and is "happy as hell" to be relieved of his duties. Dogs give him emotional stress, rashes and high blood pressure. He counts himself fortunate to have been able to improve himself during the 18 months he should have been catching dogs.



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## Letters to the Editor

## Strength of the trade unions

From Mr I. Beardswell

Sir—Your Labour Correspondent's article "TUC membership set to fall to 10m" (August 30) does not fully explore the question of trade union strength.

In common with many other reports at the present time, emphasis is placed on absolute membership figures and the fall in trade union membership from the historically high levels of the late 1970s. It should be remembered, however, that throughout the 1950s, the 1960s and into the early 1970s trade union density (expressed as actual members as a percentage of potential) ran at about 40 per cent—at a time when trade unions were held to be "powerful and to exert a major influence on the labour market and political life." In recent years these densities have increased so that by 1979 the density was 55 per cent. A falling away from that figure would be expected in a recession.

## Evaluation of human life

From Professor P. Moore

Sir—In the interesting article (August 17) and the following correspondence concerning the value to be placed upon a human life for decision making, one fact has not been fully exposed. I can illustrate this by the Health and Safety Act 1974 which, inter alia, led to the substantial strengthening of fire precautions in publicly used buildings at a cost of many billions of pounds.

The table shows the number of deaths from fires in 1976 and 1980 (the latest year for which figures have been published). The Act applies to the second row only which shows an actual rise in deaths but, even if the Act had halved the number of deaths per annum, the cost would be some tens of millions of pounds per life saved. The cost of money spent on, say, eliminating road black spots would inevitably have saved considerably more lives per million pounds spent. Why is this glaring difference not noted and acted upon?

Location	1980	1976
Dwellings	822	690
Other occupied buildings	104	84
Road vehicles	56	60
Other locations	51	61
Total	1,035	895

## High rates and unemployment

From the Vice-Chairman, Policy and Resources Committee, London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames

Sir—While sympathising with the feelings of the business community on the issue of excessive rates, consultative committees are not the answer.

Special consultative status for one group of ratepayers will only lead to claims for such status to be conferred on other interest groups in the community. And even if one established such a committee, it is unlikely to make much difference. To the local politician it is votes that count, and to quote your own editorial: "...in poorer areas voters are almost completely sheltered from the costs of high spending. Electing extravagant authorities is a simple matter of intelligent self-interest" (August 15).

Increasing the proportion of local finances that comes from central government is no answer either. Profligate local authorities are unlikely to modify their extravagance simply because more money is

coming from elsewhere. And it is unrealistic to believe that increases in government grants would be matched by decreases in commercial rates. All that would happen is that wasteful authorities, many of whom have an ideological aversion to business, would enjoy more scope for their talents.

This is why the answer to penal business rates is to be found at a national, rather than a local level. And who can doubt that action at a national level is needed when one examines the contribution of high business rates to unemployment. In London, for example, one major car dealer pays over £1,000 per day in rates on his two outlets—surely that represents a 220 per cent increase in five years.

Rate burdens of this sort can mean the difference between success and failure for a struggling enterprise, and the local government's employment and unemployment for some of our fellow citizens. (Cllr) Philip J. Circus, Members' Room, Municipal Offices, Twickenham.

## Non-farmers and straw burning

From Mr J. Stevenson

Sir—I find it slightly irritating to see (September 1) so many references to "the farmer" appearing from central London and other urban addresses, those returning from holiday, and the like. May a country dweller give a non-farming view, anecdotal though it may be.

This year, the fields surrounding me on all sides were burned as usual. The operators could not have been more anxious to follow the code, alert their neighbours and adjust their programme to meet our wishes.

## The future of Ravenscraig

From the Secretary, Steel Industry Management Association, Ravenscraig

Sir—I hesitate to put pen to paper yet again in rebuttal of unfounded and/or ill-informed comment in the national Press regarding Ravenscraig and its contribution to the performance of British Steel Corporation. Not that the case for this plant is any less positive than in recent months, quite the reverse, but one feels that the sustained refusal to print the true facts when supplied is but another indication of the pervasive influence of the BSC head office, rather than the obduracy of our editors.

I suppose we should be thankful that we make your columns at far without the coverage provided by Mark Meredith on August 23 your readers might well believe that Mr MacGregor had already succeeded in wiping us off the industrial map.

Let me hasten to assure you that nothing could be further from the truth. Even Mr MacGregor has been obliged to acknowledge that our cost performance is as good as any domestic competition and our productivity is better than some and continues to improve.

Ravenscraig has played an

essential part in what has been the Strip Product Group's most successful period of profitability and performance for many years.

Unhappily, Mr Meredith seems content to quote the BSC spokesman that failure of the U.S. Steel-BSC deal leaves British Steel with one major problem: what to do with Ravenscraig's output?

Dare we suggest the obvious: that BSC continues to sell our output to a welcoming domestic market?

Our customers, however, should be aware that closure of this mill and dedication of our slab casters to the American market will remove two-thirds of the strip group continuously cast killed-steel capacity, the product increasingly in demand by industry.

Of the three domestic mills, Ravenscraig alone can meet its total order lead through the continuous casting route. Of the other two mills, one has no such facility and the other has to process half of its steel through the high-cost traditional ingot route. Both therefore will require substantial investment if they are to meet market-quality demands.

J. Gordon Pollock, 27, Tummel Drive, Golffhill, Airdrie.

## When the cat's away.....

From Dr A. Scottney

Sir—Going on holiday can be bad for your health. On August 3 I set off for three weeks in Penzance, informing my neighbour and leaving the key of my flat in case access was required.

On August 11, the South of Scotland Electricity Board meter reader called and left a note to say he would try again on August 15. He duly called and left a further note saying he would call again on August 17. This note pointed out that the Rights of Entry (Gas and Electricity Boards) Act 1954 allows Board employees to gain entry to my premises after obtaining a warrant. On August 22, a recorded delivery letter was sent informing me that the Board was applying for a Warrant, that Board staff would call to gain entry on September 7, and that I would be liable for all expenses incurred. This letter could not be delivered because I had not yet returned; the GPO left me a note to collect it from the district office.

On August 26 I returned, and after waiting through the pile of SSB and GPO notices behind my door, had to start sorting things out. I found that at no time had my neighbour been asked for information or access. A number of features of my experience seem to be intolerable.

To proceed from initial call to recorded delivery "threatening letter" in 11 days at the height of the holiday season is ridiculous. How many thousands of other consumers have been caught in this same web? Remember that our charges pay for this idiosyncrasy.

The draconian powers given to the Boards under the 1954 Act were meant to be wielded by personnel with enough functioning brain cells to use them sensibly. My experience convinces me that the time has come for the consumer to be protected from the arrogant and aggressive monopoly supplier until such time as some competition can be introduced. I and many thousands of others will then take great pleasure in telling the incumbents to get their equipment out of our premises.

If I had been away, say, from August 10 to September 7, I would have returned to find my doors smashed in and my armchair with rack oil and umbrellas polished. For my part, I think it is high time that the Electricity Boards' swollen and apparently unemployed administrative staff was punctured by the attention of the Iron Maiden.

Dr A. Scottney, 17 Hyndland Avenue, 1/L, Glasgow.



## The mortgage situation

From Mr A. McBay

Sir—I read with interest the article by Mr David Hunt (August 27) and I am surprised that the blame for the present mortgage situation is heaped upon building societies.

The comment that the societies have been "quick to exploit" the present position is crude in the extreme and totally ignores the scandalous exploitation by the banks of a market where traditionally precarious equilibrium was upset largely by their intervention. The banks assured borrowers that they were committed to home loans for good and in a big way, but now that mortgages are no longer profitable they have effectively shut up shop, having created an excess capacity which societies are now expected to alleviate. Equally, the banks have done this with almost no adverse media comment, no assumptions because societies are easier prey to this and more vulnerable.

Having held off increasing rates for six months, societies raised their rates on July 1, and, more recently, announced special investment initiatives, in a bid to alleviate the "famine". Mrs Thatcher was said to be disappointed but not distraught so as to prevent her instructing the Chancellor to drive up the

National Savings rates, thus depriving the societies of badly needed funds for months to come from traditional sources. Only the biggest can hope to raise wholesale funds in any meaningful quantity and even there the instruments of government have been very recently frustrated societies' attempts to develop this source more fully.

Those societies who did achieve reductions (far not all have) in the cost of borrowing to members, have done so for eighteen months and ought to receive more credit for this than has so far been given. If competition from, and profiteering by, other financial institutions combining to drive up the cost of societies' funds (investing and borrowing) then societies cannot operate in isolation and should not be criticised in isolation. Differential mortgage rates are creatures of circumstance, not of choice, but in view of the criticism heaped on the interest rate "cartel" in recent months, it would perhaps be best if societies ignored the BSA recommendation system and charged one uniform rate judged by their individual operating margins.

Alistair McBay, 25, Copthorne Road, Felbridge, Surrey.

## The role of the board

From Mr M. Knight

Sir—The report on management performance and the board referred to on August 25 confirms the widely held suspicion that little has changed in recent years in making more effective use of non-executive directors.

Despite official initiatives and support, it remains true that the boards of the country's medium and larger companies have too few non-executive directors, in particular too few drawn from the senior executive management of other businesses. Further, it remains true that the role of chairman is too infrequently understood and too often combined with that of chief executive (although this is not always inappropriate). It is not surprising, as a consequence, that the board does not play its proper role either in

the formulation of corporate policy or in assessing the quality of its execution. Instead, it is merely an extension of the day-to-day executive management activities.

The current period of relative economic stability offers companies an opportunity to address basic issues to do with the role of the board, its composition and processes. The aim should be to give firm foundations to strategic renewal, and to put an end to crucial judgments being predominantly determined by preconditions of the business derived from the past, and to decisions of long-term consequence being dictated by the arbitrary nature of the last chairman's whims.

Michael Knight, The Corporate Consulting Group, 24, Buckingham Gate, SW1.

## Conversion from rail to road

From Mr L. Freitag

Sir—I read (September 2) with interest the letter by Mr Daigleish of the Railway Conversion League in which he claimed that the case for conversion from rail to road is "generally accepted." The question must be asked, by whom?

The arguments were thoroughly discredited by BR in a recent publication, in a debate held by the Institute of Civil Engineers in which Mr Daigleish took part and even the study set up in a bid to give publicity by David Howell the previous Minister, into two such conversion schemes (Elmers End, South London, and the Woodhead route) seems to have sunk without trace.

Thousands of miles of lines closed by the Beeching were first offered to local authorities and few chose to use the opportunity presented for building new roads.

The current study being undertaken at a cost of £50,000 of taxpayers' money on top of what has already happened is, we feel, a waste and would pay

for a new station plus car park to join the 80+ that have been reopened despite the RCL since the 1960s. This would do more to ease road congestion than any conversion of rail to road.

Two of the lines chosen for study in the London area are extremely busy, one with freight and the other with 7,000 commuters and therefore obvious non-starters. Why therefore spend this sum of money proving that "the moon is not made of green cheese"?

Fortunately the appointment of Mr Reid to the chairmanship of the RCL is further proof that the Railway Conversion League is out of time, as it was before for someone who would put its ideas into practice.

The first action of the new chairman on taking up office and which would gain him much credit would be to scrap this study immediately.

L. Freitag, (National Committee Railway Development Society), 22, Crocels Road, Harpenden, Herts.

## Geneva Arms Talks

## Five minutes to midnight

By Bridget Bloom, Defence Correspondent



Soviet nuclear arms control negotiator Yuri Kvititskiy (left) and his U.S. counterpart, Paul Nitze.

IT WAS approaching five minutes to midnight at the arms control talks in Geneva even before Soviet fighters destroyed the Korean jetliner last Thursday.

By December 31, unless the arms talks make major progress, Nato will have deployed the first of 572 new U.S. cruise and Pershing missiles in Britain and West Germany. The last and most critical round of negotiations leading up to that deadline opens in Geneva today.

It has seemed increasingly likely over the last year that some new American missiles would be deployed, so far apart have the U.S. and the Soviet Union remained in Geneva. The shooting down of the Korean aircraft has not resulted in the postponement of the talks: U.S. Ambassador Paul Nitze and Mr Yuri Kvititskiy, his Russian counterpart, are apparently to meet as planned over the green baize table this morning. But the soured political atmosphere which the two delegations will now meet must make agreement before December even less likely than it was last week.

The irony is that only last month when President Andropov offered to destroy key SS-20 missiles in the interests of a new agreement the climate had begun to look more promising than for many months.

The talks to limit intermediate range nuclear forces—INF as they are known—opened in November two years ago and have been conducted at two distinct levels. One has involved a highly charged unprecedented public debate in Europe and the U.S. while the other, concerned with the actual negotiations in Geneva, has been kept largely from public view.

The most marked shift has been in the public arena where the political pressures against deployment have eased significantly. Nato entered the negotiations (Nato countries do not have a seat at the talks but are closely consulted by the U.S.) in a state of crisis. At issue was Nato's 1979 decision to deploy new U.S. cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe to match the new Soviet medium range SS-20s. The decision was aimed at "coupling" the U.S. more closely to the defence of Europe. Nato wanted to remove any possibility that Moscow might believe it could use its SS-20s against Europe without itself being involved in nuclear exchange with the U.S.

Even though Nato also offered talks to control the new weapons, the so-called "twin-track" decision of 1979 proved highly controversial. In 1980 the Dutch and Belgian governments effectively dissociated themselves from the deployments due for their countries. A year or so ago the political divisions in Germany and even in the UK threatened to make any deployment in Europe impossible—a result Moscow wanted and, conservative politicians believed, actively encouraged.

It would be foolish to claim that Nato is wholly united on the missile issue or to downplay the political impact of demonstrations against cruise and Pershing which are gathering again, especially in West Germany, after the summer break. But elections in Germany and Britain in the last six months have confirmed conservative governments in office and even Italy's socialist government—though it now admits that for technical reasons it will not deploy cruise missiles till the spring—remains firmly behind the deployment decision in the absence of an acceptable arms agreement. So as December's deadline approaches Nato is in fact more united and able to talk more toughly than at any time in the past two years.

Some arms control officials see this latest move as potentially very important: a chink which could widen to provide a breakthrough. Moscow has so far argued that a balance in Europe

appear to have been only marginal shifts in the negotiating positions of the two sides. On the U.S. side, the most significant move came last March when under intense European pressure President Reagan abandoned his zero-zero solution (no U.S. deployments in return for the removal of all the Soviet SS-20s) in favour of an interim agreement which would involve equal but unspecified deployments on either side.

As far as Nato is concerned, the Soviet Union took a step back in the first major announcement of Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader last December. Moscow's first offer had been 300 missiles for each side by 1990. Mr Andropov qualified this by saying that the USSR would reduce the number of medium range missiles deployed to 162, a number exactly equivalent to the British and French nuclear forces.

In the eyes of the West, Mr Andropov moved forward again slightly when he agreed last May to count warheads not missiles (each SS-20 has three warheads against the U.S. missiles' one) and when, two weeks ago, he said that existing SS-20s moved from European Russia as part of an arms agreement could be destroyed rather than redeployed elsewhere.

Some arms control officials see this latest move as potentially very important: a chink which could widen to provide a breakthrough. Moscow has so far argued that a balance in Europe

already exists between the medium-range nuclear weapons of the two superpowers. If that is the case, the officials ask, why the offer to destroy key new weapons which contribute to that balance? They also note the proposals imply that Moscow accepts there would be limits on all its SS-20s and not just those in Europe. The U.S. has all along insisted that an arms agreement must involve such global limits.

As of last week, however, Moscow was still saying that any SS-20s deployed in Asia were irrelevant to an agreement with the U.S. in Europe. So this remains one key sticking point as the two delegations reopen their negotiations today. There are two others which must be resolved before any agreement is possible.

First, Moscow's main aim still appears to be to prevent any deployment of U.S. weapons. Yet the U.S. insists that there must be balanced deployment of medium-range missiles on both sides. It will agree not to deploy the new cruise and Pershing missiles only if Moscow removes all its SS-20s—a condition already rejected.

Second, Moscow still insists that the British and French nuclear missiles—all but 18 of which are submarine-based—should be included. The U.S., backed by Britain and France, rejects this, claiming that these forces are strategic weapons of last resort which are intended to defend national rather than Nato interests.

It is impossible to say now whether a way will ultimately be found out of this impasse. What seems certain is that preparations to deploy some of the missiles in Europe by the December deadline will continue as presumably will Soviet threats to deploy new weapons in Eastern Europe in retaliation. The U.S. and Nato expect the talks to go on even as deployment continues. The Soviet Union has not responded to that suggestion.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the Korean jetliner crisis, Mr Nitze's meeting with Mr Kvititskiy in Geneva today will take second place to what happens when Mr George Shultz, the U.S. Secretary of State, meets Mr Andrei Gromyko, his Russian counterpart, in Madrid tomorrow. There can be no hope for Geneva if the wider political atmosphere continues to be embittered by last week's events.

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## Political pressures rise in France after the rentrée

BY DAVID HOUSEGO IN PARIS

IT IS a phenomenon almost unique to France and one that shows no sign of losing its vigour. Each year the French mark the return to work after the long summer holidays - "la rentrée" with the ceremony and solemnity due to one of the major events in the national calendar.

It is a time when ministers, politicians, trade union leaders and commentators step forward one by one with "state-of-the-nation" speeches and homilies to their followers. It is thus a useful occasion for taking the political temperature.

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, M. Raymond Barre, his predecessor, M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris and leader of the neo-Gaullist RPR and union leaders such as M. Edmond Maire, head of

the pro-Socialist CFDT and M. Henri Krasucki, the Communist union leader, have all passed before the rostrum. On Sunday night it was the turn of M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the former Minister of Industry and now the Government's leading critic on the left.

There is no fixed date for the "rentrée", though September 1 is a traditional one. Schools do not go back until Thursday, and some shops and cafés still have their shutters up. M. George Marchais, the Communist Party leader, will make his return at the annual Fête de l'Humanité - the Communist family jamboree held each year just outside Paris.

It is a "rentrée" this year with many paradoxes. The economy is

belatedly moving into recession. Industry is carrying a large excess of stocks which is bound to accelerate the fall in output and jobs in the autumn.

But for almost the first time since taking office, the Socialist Administration is showing that it has some grip on the direction of the economy and is reaping the first fruits of its policies in terms of inflation and the trade deficit. This has given cheer to its followers and prevented the opposition from being too cataclysmic in its denunciations.

Unlike the spring, there has been a notable absence of political sabre-rattling and none of the unions are threatening major strikes, despite of unrest in the motor and paper industries.

Over the weekend M. Chirac sought to quell the impatience of his right-wing followers who would like to take to the streets to force early legislative elections. "We respect the institutions of the Republic," he said, "and will keep within them." But he still believes the economic situation is getting worse. "Has the Government the means or competence to take it in hand? I doubt it," he said.

For M. Raymond Barre there is not even this element of hesitation. "Our country offers today a sad spectacle," he said, "of uncertainty, discouragement and disillusion." The policies being followed would lead inescapably to its decline, he added.

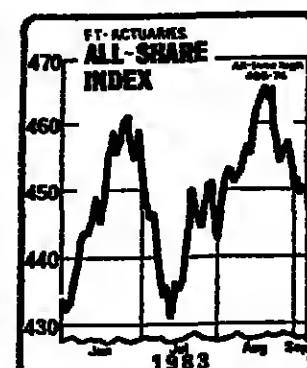
Union leaders, in spite of the

trend towards higher unemployment and declining purchasing power, have been restrained in their comments. The independently-minded M. Maire of the pro-Socialist CFDT said that he thought the economic policies of M. Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister, were succeeding. And pouring scorn on another of the Government's worries, he counselled workers threatened with lay-offs in declining sectors like steel or textiles against a language of revolt.

M. Krasucki, the Communist union leader has spoken of the great anxiety over unemployment and the great discontent over purchasing power. But his union, in the circumstances, is still restrained in its militancy.

## THE LEX COLUMN

## Recovery blues in the City



With children on their way back to school, the City of London was filling up with relaxed parents yesterday. The holiday mood has still not been shaken off, especially with the U.S. away on Labour Day, and volume in the markets remained at a low ebb. What movement there was, however, reflected a cautiously confident outlook. The gains were in defiance of warning noises from no fewer than six stockbroking firms which sent out circulars on the topic of the UK economy. Displaying rare team spirit, they all agreed that the recovery was slowing down and that growth rates were likely to fall below 1½ per cent in 1984.

The evidence for the more gloomy forecasts is as yet tentative, with the slowdown in July retail sales the centrepiece in the argument. Since the savings ratio has been run down to low levels, and the mortgage rate, the analysts have been quick to seize on the retail figures as an indicator that consumer spending has peaked. But it is probably dangerous to place too much weight on this series, given the record car sales in the subsequent month of August.

Nevertheless, the stock figures have not so far responded much to increased final demand, suggesting that it will have to be capital spending and exports that take up the running if the economy is to continue to make progress. On capital spending, indeed, the omens are looking moderately bright.

The less buoyant growth prospects do not seem to have shaken forecasters' belief in sustained profits growth, with another 20 per cent increase still generally expected next year. Ironically, company boards seem a good deal less confident, to judge from their dividend pay-out decisions. While aggregate dividend growth was expected to be in the area of 10 per cent this year, so far the increase on a year-on-year basis has only reached 7 per cent. The divergence may be explicable in terms of pay expectations. At this stage of the cycle, the profit-wage relationship has usually shifted in favour of wages, a fact that boards, with the autumn pay round

looming, no doubt have uppermost in their minds. City analysts, by contrast, seem to have stronger faith in a decisive break-out in favour of profits.

The equity market - now down 3 per cent from the August peak - remains vulnerable, especially if there is no advance in gilt-edged which, to judge by the width of the reverse yield gap, is already well discounted. Certainly a slowdown in the economy should be good news as far as money supply growth is concerned, although any easing in UK interest rates may depend more critically on what happens in the U.S.

### BPCC

With only a day to go, it looks as if Mr Robert Maxwell's bid for Waddington will founder on the reluctance of some institutions to accept the role of minority shareholders in a subsidiary of Pergamon Press. Although the BPCC shares can be dealt in a fair size, the price must to some extent be overbought by the 77 per cent Pergamon holding, worth nearly £105m at yesterday's 113p - most of it representing a capital gain for the private company.

The prospect that some of this gain might be realised looks the closer BPCC's progressive recovery eats into the mound of tax-losses which have been protecting Pergamon from the taxman since early in 1981. The payment of a dividend on the BPCC ordinary shares this year signals that the tax-pooling arrangement will end its useful life before long.

### News Corporation

Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation appears to have achieved a new level of profitability which should provide the best possible background for his growing interest, and substantial recent investment, in satellite television. Pre-tax profits for the year to June have climbed to AS105.7m, up from AS52.2m, on the basis of a 20 per cent increase in revenues to AS1.50m. With the group also increasing its stake in Reuters just last month, via an expanded holding in the Australian Associated Press consortium, Mr Murdoch's media portfolio now seems space, and investors' expectations have been growing accordingly: the shares closed up at AS3.30 in Australia ahead of yesterday's results and the minority special dividend shares in the News International subsidiary rose 20p to 295p yesterday.

News International seems likely to have made an important contribution to the group's overall advance. Losses at Times Newspapers have probably fallen to well under £10m, but profit gains at the Sun and the News of the World have been the real story as far as the group's profitability is concerned, perhaps reaching £30m. Similarly, in the U.S., losses at the New York Post have been pulled back sharply while recent profits have come from the group's other New York publications. Only in Australia has the group fallen back - and even here heavy costs have been incurred in new television and publishing ventures pour mieux sauter.

## Asian reaction may hit Soviet Far East plans

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON IN LONDON

AMBITIOUS Soviet plans for the economic development of Siberia and the Soviet Far East could well be delayed if the reaction in Asia to the downing of a South Korean jumbo jet last week leads to a further downgrading of economic relations.

The steady build-up of Soviet military strength in the Far East has accompanied a major effort to develop the energy and mineral resources of the Siberian hinterland, and to strengthen transport and other links between the east and west of this vast country.

Well over half Soviet oil and gas production comes from western Siberia and the area contains more than 90 per cent of Soviet coal reserves, much of its timber, gold and precious stones. Increasingly, the axis of Soviet economic development is moving east and north towards Yakutia and the Soviet Far East.

The defence installations over which the South Korean plane flew are, partially at least, designed to protect this growing economic investment in an area so far from the

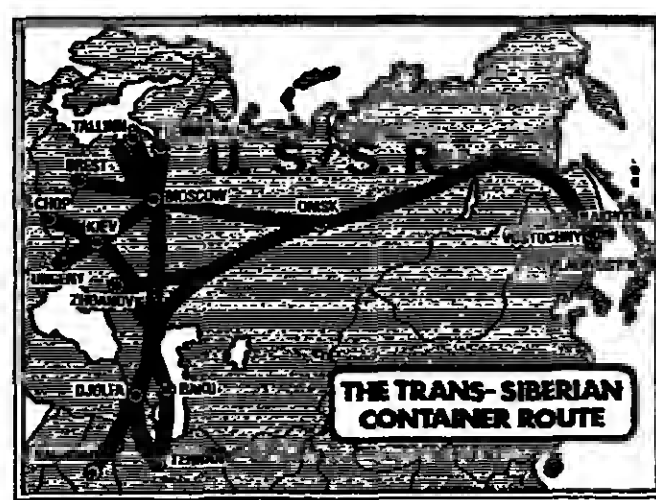
main population and industrial centres in the west.

Despite the military build-up the Soviet leadership has long been aware that the economic development of eastern Siberia is beyond the Soviet Union's own resources. It, therefore, and remains Soviet policy to try to attract both Japanese and U.S. investment and technical assistance in Siberia development.

The Soviet Union has also invested billions of dollars in the 3,500km Baku-Amur Magistral (BAM) railway originally scheduled for completion in 1982 but which is not now expected to be ready until the end of 1984.

Like so much investment in Siberia, the BAM railway has military and civilian use. Soviet strategists have long been unhappy at the vulnerability of the existing trans-Siberian railway which runs close to the Chinese border for hundreds of miles.

BAM, on the other hand, runs up to 400km north of the border. Its completion will greatly ease the logistics of supplying the Soviet Far



THE TRANS-SIBERIAN CONTAINER ROUTE

East and Soviet forces along and behind the Sino-Soviet border.

BAM is also expected to open up the vast mineral and energy resources of Yakutia and provide a much faster and cheaper alternative for freight travel between Japan and Western Europe.

This "rail bridge" already exists, using the over-loaded trans-Siberian line. But a massive automated container port, capable of handling 150,000 containers a year, has been built at Vostochni port near Nakhodka in anticipation of a major expansion in such East-West traffic.

Similar facilities have been built at Baltic ports to handle the western end.

Future plans for BAM include a northern extension to Yakutsk and to the port of Magadan. Meanwhile, the line has started transporting coal from the Neryungri coal com-

plex in south Yakutia. It is expected to greatly reduce the costs of transporting construction and other materials for hydro-power schemes, metallurgical complexes, mining and energy development schemes planned for the rest of the decade.

Soviet attempts to attract foreign companies and finance to assist in Siberian development and use the higher handling capacity of the BAM rail network have been shown to be politically sensitive.

Japan dropped out of an earlier U.S.-Japanese project to build a 2,000km pipeline to carry 30bn cubic metres of natural gas annually from the Yelvi river deposits of Yakutia to the Pacific coast because of worsening U.S.-Soviet relations caused the U.S. side to withdraw.

Anthony Robinson, Moscow Correspondent, was expelled from the Soviet Union in April.

## Philips 'to raise stake in Grundig'

By John Davies in Frankfurt

GRUNDIG, the West German television and video recorder producer, expects Philips, the Dutch-based company, to increase its stake in the company in the near future. Grundig also sees a possibility that Philips will later gain a majority shareholding.

The West German company confirmed remarks attributed yesterday to Dr Max Grundig, the company's founder and majority shareholder, in a German business newspaper.

In an interview at the West Berlin International Radio and Electronics exhibition, Dr Grundig said that Philips would at first raise its stake from the present 24.5 per cent to a blocking minority of just over 25 per cent.

This would happen in the foreseeable future, probably next year. Contractual arrangements were at present being considered.

Dr Grundig said it was conceivable that Philips would take over a majority stake at some later stage. However, Dr Grundig rejected suggestions that he was concerned to find a successor for his operation. The group already had a solid management structure which could function in his absence, he said.

Dr Grundig said he foresaw no objections from the Federal Cartel Office to an increase in Philips' stake in his company.

Philips' holding in Grundig was a major reason why the Cartel Office opposed the planned purchase by Thomson-Brandt of France of Dr Grundig's 75.5 per cent shareholding earlier this year.

The Cartel Office felt that a virtual partnership of Philips and Thomson-Brandt would greatly reduce competition in the West German market.

Thomson-Brandt then changed course and took a 75 per cent stake in AEG-Telefunken.

## Nigeria plans further debt refinancing

By Quentin Peel in London

NEARLY 30 international banks have confirmed that they wish to participate in a further refinancing of Nigeria's arrears in trade payments, which could amount to more than \$300m.

The new deal would be on the same terms as that signed in July with 26 banks, which totalled some \$1.5bn, including interest and fees, covering arrears in payments on confirmed letters of credit. Refinancing is over three years, with a grace period ending on January 1 1984.

The latest group of banks includes many which were unable to participate in the previous operation because they could not meet the Nigerian deadline for agreement. The only difference between the two deals is that the cut-off date for letters of credit to be included is July 31, instead of March 31, and the banks involved have a much smaller average exposure.

The deadline for banks to confirm their participation was last Friday, although some responses are still being received, according to bankers in London. Barclays Bank International is agent for the deal, and the "co-licitor" banks - S. G. Warburg, Lazard Freres and Lehman Brothers - are advisors to the Nigerian Finance Ministry.

Nigeria's trade arrears have built up over the past two years, as a result of a slump in oil exports without a similar reduction in imports, and have been estimated at between \$4bn and \$6bn.

Once the latest deal is concluded - which bankers hope should be any time from mid-September - almost \$2bn of letters of credit will have been refinanced, excluding interest and fees.

## Rise of 102% for News Corporation

By Charles Batchelor in London

NEWS CORPORATION, Mr Rupert Murdoch's international publishing group, more than doubled its pre-tax profits to AS105.7m (U.S. \$93m) in the 12 months ended June 30, 1983.

This increase of 102 per cent on the AS52.2m of the previous year was due largely to an improvement in the company's UK and U.S. activities. The earnings of the Australian and associated companies deteriorated, the company said.

News International, the British part of Mr Murdoch's operations, does not report its own results until today but its shares reacted by rising 20p to a new 1983 high of 295p.

Net profit of News Corporation rose 133 per cent to AS85.9m from AS37.3m, excluding extraordinary charges of AS42.6m (AS4.6m the year before) due mainly to unrealised currency fluctuations, in particular the devaluation of the Australian dollar.

Turnover rose 30 per cent to AS1.5bn from AS1.25bn. The dividend is unchanged at 11 cents a share.

In the UK the profitable Sun and News of the World improved their contribution while the Times and Sunday Times were able to reduce their losses.

In the U.S., the New York Post has increased its circulation to nearly 1m copies a day.

The Star, a weekly with a circulation of 4m copies, and the chain of local papers printed in San Antonio, Texas, have also improved their profits.

## Norway, Sweden and Britain plan joint study of acid rain

BY DAVID FISHLICK, SCIENCE EDITOR, IN LONDON

THE PREMIER scientific bodies of Britain, Norway and Sweden are to join in a \$7.5m research programme to try to explain the cause of acid rain.

Acid rain has been accused of causing damage to fish stocks, forestry and crops in Scandinavia and West Germany in particular. The electricity industry is alleged to be the main source of acid rain through sulphur emissions from coal-fired power stations.

The research will be funded by Britain's state-owned Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) and National Coal Board (NCB). About 80 per cent of the CEGB's electricity is generated from coal.

The two industries were at pains yesterday to say that they would have no control over the way the money was spent, or over publication of the research results.

Britain's Royal Society is to manage the project, through a management committee under the chairmanship of its physical secretary, Sir Morris Sullivan. Senior Norwegian and Swedish scientists will sit on this committee.

The Royal Society has chosen a vice-president, Sir John Mason, who retires from his post as director-general of the Meteorological Office next month, as project director.

Sir Walter Marshall, CEGB chairman, said yesterday that he had persuaded the Royal Society - of which he is a Fellow - to undertake the programme and the Coal Board to back it. The answers could have "massive policy implications for the CEGB," he said.

"Our difficulty is that we are so obviously so much affected by the effects of acid rain that any re-

search we do ourselves is immediately suspect."

Sir Walter estimates that the CEGB has spent about £5m (\$7.5m) of its own money in the last five years, trying to track sulphur emissions from its big power stations.

For Britain to cut its sulphur emissions to a third its present level would probably cost more than £4bn in capital investment and about £700m a year in additional operating costs, he said. For Western Europe as a whole, these figures could be multiplied at least five times.

Mr Ian MacGregor, newly-appointed NCB chairman, said his industry had "to be careful not to be stamped." Coal accounted for only half the sulphur emissions by Britain - oil accounted for the other half, he said.

## Mitsubishi link for Plessey unit

BY PAUL TAYLOR IN NEW YORK

STROMBERG-CARLSON, the U.S. telecommunications equipment manufacturer which the UK-based Plessey group bought from General Dynamics for \$50m last year, is to set up a joint venture with Mitsubishi International Corporation to market cellular mobile telephones in the U.S.

Under the terms of the agreement in principle, announced jointly by the two companies, the joint venture's cellular system, called Astromet, will use Stromberg-Carl-

son's digital switching equipment and Mitsubishi's radio frequency equipment, mobile telephone transmitter and data links.

The agreement marks a major push by the Plessey group into the emerging U.S. market for cellular mobile telephone systems - systems using a network of low-power transmitters which serve small "cells," allowing the use of a telephone from a briefcase or car.

At stake is a market which some industry analysts believe could be

worth billions of dollars and is expected to attract about 1.5m initial subscribers, spending between \$1,000 and \$3,000 each on equipment.

The key to the planned Astromet system is the mobile telephone switching office (MTSO), a switch which can serve up to 64 individual cells and connect the system to the public telephone network. Future plans call for the MTSO to provide a capacity of 128 cell sites.

## Unions set for change

Continued from Page 1

and stop using our factories and services as political footballs."

"We will have to stop wishing that the world was like it once was, and face up to what it is. We have to broaden our base, not narrow it. We have to concentrate on finding the common ground that can unite our members rather than dividing them by party politics, or prejudices."

Unions had to appeal to the new working class. "We will have to pay the job that working people pay us to provide, and stop involving ourselves in problems that we cannot solve but often only make worse," he said.

Mr Chapple, who will retire shortly as leader of the electricians' union, drew boos from some delegates when he strongly criticised Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing leader of the miners' union, who recently attacked Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and Mr Ronald Reagan, the U.S. president, during a visit to Moscow.

"I am sure that the majority of our members are as baffled as I am that some trade union leaders will travel half way across the world to sympathise with Communist dictatorships, yet seek to prevent the TUC from talking to the elected government of Britain."

## World Weather

Area	Temp	Wind	Area	Temp	Wind
Algeria	26	15	Denmark	16	17
Alexandria	27	11	France	20	14
Amman	27	11	Germany	20	14
Ankara	27	11	Greece	20	14
Baghdad	27	11	Italy	20	14
Bahia	27	11	Japan	20	14
Bombay	27	11	Lebanon	20	14
Buenos Aires	27	11	Lithuania	20	14
Calcutta	27	11	Malaysia	20	14
Cairo	27	11	Mexico	20	14
Cardiff	27	11	Norway	20	14
Chennai	27	11	Poland	20	14
Copenhagen	27	11	Romania	20	14
Dublin	27	11	Saudi Arabia	20	14
Edinburgh	27	11	Sri Lanka	20	14
Geneva	27	11	Taiwan	20	14
Helsinki	27	11	Thailand	20	14
Istanbul	27	11	Turkey	20	14
London	27	11	Ukraine	20	14
Los Angeles	27	11	USSR	20	14
Lyons	27	11	Yugoslavia	20	14
Madrid	27	11			
Manchester	27	11			
Moscow	27	11			
New York	27	11			
Osaka	27	11			
Paris	27	11			
Rangoon	27	11			
Reykjavik	27	11			
Rome	27	11			
Sao Paulo	27	11			
Seoul	27	11			
Shanghai	27	11			
Singapore	27	11			
Stockholm	27	11			
Taipei	27	11			
Tokyo	27	11			
Ulaanbaatar	27	11			
Warsaw	27	11			
Wellington	27	11			
Yokohama	27	11			

Headlines at mid-day yesterday.

C-Cloudy D-Drizzle F-Fog P-Fog M-Mist S-Snow T-Thunder



On stream On time  
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**Capper Neill**  
On site

**Process Plant Design  
and Construction  
Worldwide**

## SECTION II - INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

# FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday September 6 1983

The Bank for  
Corporate  
Finance  
**BNP**  
UK 01-626 5678

## Hongkong Land may set HK\$4bn credit target

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

THE Hongkong Land Company, Hong Kong's largest property group, plans to raise HK\$300m (U.S.\$39.7m) through an issue of commercial paper.

Hongkong Land is also said to be seeking a HK\$1bn standby credit, and according to bankers may be seeking overall credit facilities totalling HK\$2bn to HK\$4bn.

The financing moves would form part of a drive by Hongkong Land to rationalise its capital commitments and restructure its debt. Major equity and property investments over the last two years have increased group debt from HK\$4.5bn at year-end 1981 to HK\$15.1bn at year-end 1982.

In January this year, the group refinanced HK\$4bn of short-term borrowings with a medium-term syndicated credit. Subsequently, it has sold a HK\$1.4bn equity stake in Hongkong Telephone, and termi-

nated a major jointventure housing project at Redhill, in Hong Kong.

Hongkong Land also announced yesterday the termination of an abortive joint-venture with Carrian Investments, the property group currently striving to save off liquidation by rescheduling its debts. Land is paying Carrian HK\$31.5m for the latter's 50 per cent stake in Emlyn Investments, a company set up to hold three Hong Kong apartment blocks. Emlyn is now as a result wholly-owned by Hongkong Land.

● The Mass Transit Railway Corporation, the government-owned developer of Hong Kong's underground railway system, plans to issue HK\$300m of commercial paper this month. The MTRC issued in July HK\$500m of three-month commercial paper. The new issue is expected to carry an 18-month maturity, with a floating rate coupon. The syndicate of banks arranging the is-

sue comprises Citicorp International, Lloyds Bank International, Schroders and Chartered, and Sumitomo Bank.

● AP-DJ in Singapore adds: United Industrial Corporation said yesterday that it had received notice that its managing director, Dei Hong Leong, planned to make a cash offer of S\$1.20 (U.S.\$0.50) a share for all UIC stock.

In a statement on UIC's behalf, Morgan Greovill (Asia) said it received notice of the offer from Wardley, which is acting on behalf of Dei.

Chip Lian Investments, in which Dei has an interest, owns 12.3m shares in UIC. Another company in which he has an interest, Tang Eng, owns more than 13m UIC shares, giving him a direct and indirect stake in the company of more than 37 per cent.

## BHP call to reject à Court takeover

By Our Financial Staff

BHP, Australia's largest company, has recommended to shareholders that they should reject the offer for the company from Wigmore, which is controlled by Mr Robert Holmes à Court's Bell group.

The "big Australian" will soon make its formal reply to the Wigmore bid and is asking shareholders to take no action in the meantime. The offer values the diversified steel, oil, gas, mining and manufacturing group at A\$4.13bn (U.S.\$3.63bn) and involved an exchange of two Wigmore shares, valued at the time at A\$6 each, for each BHP share.

Since the offer was made BHP's share price has risen considerably. However, reports of a major oil find - rather than the bid by Mr Holmes à Court - have been responsible for the upward movement.

The find, at Jabiru in the North Timor Sea, is said by analysts to have a potential of 185m barrels. BHP holds a half-share in the field, with Weeks Australia and Ampol holding most of the rest.

Reports of the find pushed BHP's price up by 75 cents last week and by a further 20 cents yesterday to close at A\$12.35. A fuller report on the well's potential is due at the end of this week.

The rise in BHP's share price has, for the time being at least, made the Wigmore offer less financially attractive even for a minority of shareholders, say brokers.

## Barlow Rand rights issue

By Our Financial Staff

BARLOW Rand, the South African conglomerate, has announced the details of its proposed R150m (S133.2m) rights issue. The issue of just over 12m preferred ordinary shares is being made on the basis of eight shares for each 100 already held, and the price set is R1.25 per share.

South African Mutual Life Society, has announced that it is to take up its full 29.5 per cent of the total rights offer and that it fully underwrites the remainder.

## Amfas drops dividend despite turnaround

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

AMFAS, the Dutch insurance group, has moved back into profit for the first six months of 1983, but will not pay an interim dividend.

The company, the sixth largest insurance group in the Netherlands, has achieved net profits of F13m (S1m) for the half year. The result compares with a loss of F188.4m for the whole of 1982.

Last year's deficit, which resulted from big provisions against property investments, forced Amfas to cut its dividend to F1.24 a share from

the F1.7 paid for 1981, when net profits totalled F143m.

Amfas said yesterday that reorganisation measures were already beginning to turn the company around. Gross results on life underwriting were profitable but non-life business remained in the red.

Operating earnings for the half year emerged at F1.9m, against a loss of F1.7m overall in 1982. At the per share level, profits were F1.07 compared with a total 1982 loss of F128.5.

Amfas has about 6 per cent of the life insurance market in the Netherlands and a slightly smaller share of the non-life underwriting market. In recent years it has expanded rapidly into activities outside insurance, notably property investment and mortgages.

Earlier this year, the company reversed original estimates of another big loss for 1983 by suggesting that a small profit could be achieved for this year.

## Wella has strong response to issue

By John Davies in Frankfurt

WELLA, the West German hair-care company, has attracted strong interest in its share offer as a prelude to a stock exchange listing. Deutsche Bank, which headed a bank consortium offering the preference shares for sale, said yesterday that the offer was oversubscribed, with considerable interest from abroad.

Offers to buy were more than double the amount available and allotment of the shares had not yet been finalised.

Wella offered more than 540,000 non-voting preference shares, with a nominal value of DM 50 (S18.50), at a price of DM 340 per share, thus raising a total of DM 184m.

The shares are to be traded on the Frankfurt stock exchange, with dealing likely to start next Monday. Wella, founded more than 100 years ago, employs 10,000 in 27 countries and expects sales revenue this year of DM 1.4bn.

Like many other large West German enterprises, it has so far remained a family operation and its approach to the stock market has aroused widespread interest, even though the shares offered for sale do not carry voting rights.

## Italian bank lifts earnings

By James Buxton in Rome

MEDIOBANCA, the Italian merchant bank which plays a dominant role in the financing of the country's major private companies, yesterday reported almost doubled profits for the year to June 30 1983.

Profits rose to L75.1bn (S46.7m) compared with L37.4bn in 1981-82. The result was achieved after making special provisions of L57.8bn and allowing L13.9bn for the writing down of the value of participation.

In 1980-81, Mediobanca's profits more than doubled on the previous year to L88.5bn. In the 1981-82 financial year they were heavily affected by the writing down by L97.5bn of the value of the bank's large participations in the ailing Montedison chemical group and in other companies. Now, with much smaller write-downs, the bank's profitability has come back towards the 1980-81 levels.

Last autumn, Sig Enrico Cuccia, the grand old man of Italian finance who built up the institution, retired at the age of 75. Yesterday's board meeting to approve the results was presided over by the new chairman, Sig Fausto Calahria.

## Restructuring losses hit Aker at midyear

BY FAY GJESTER IN OSLO

NORWAY'S Aker ship and platform building group, which has recently been re-structuring to concentrate on oil-related activities, achieved significantly better operating profits in the first half of 1983 than in the same period last year, on a far smaller production volume.

However, heavy extraordinary losses connected with the shut down or sale of some production units produced a half-year deficit, before end-of-year adjustments, of Nkr 34m (S4.53m). This compared with a profit of Nkr 5m in first half 1982.

The group says that further extraordinary losses related to its re-

structuring will be sustained in the current six months, but notes that the companies "which are to form the future Aker group" are achieving satisfactory results, and it is moderately optimistic about the longer-term outlook.

At end-June this year, Aker's workforce had been cut to 5,189 from 9,787 a year earlier. Man-hours worked in the opening half of this year totalled 4.4m (against 7.4m) and production value was Nkr 898m, compared with Nkr 1,896m. Operating profit was Nkr 23m - up by Nkr 6m on year earlier figures. Financial and extraordinary losses totalled Nkr 57m.

## Olsen warns on year

BY OUR OSLO CORRESPONDENT

HIGH EARNINGS from offshore platforms offset losses on other shipping operations during the opening half of 1983, for Norway's Fred Olsen shipping group.

The five companies in the group achieved a total operating profit of Nkr 128m (S17m) in the six months, little different from the Nkr 127m

in the corresponding period last year. Profits on the sales of ships reached Nkr 33m, compared with Nkr 9m.

The company warns that results for the year as a whole could be unfavourably affected by the strong dollar because of unrealised losses on dollar loans.

All of these securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

August, 1983



## Bolt Technology Corporation

940,000 Shares

Common Stock

L. F. ROTHSCHILD, UNTERBERG, TOWBIN

BEAR, STEARNS & CO.	THE FIRST BOSTON CORPORATION	A. G. BECKER PARIBAS
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DONALDSON, LUFKIN & JENRETTE	DREXEL BURNHAM LAMBERT	GOLDMAN, SACHS & CO.
HAMBRECHT & QUIST	E. F. HUTTON & COMPANY INC.	KIDDER, PEABODY & CO.
LAZARD FRERES & CO.	LEHMAN BROTHERS KUHNS LOEB	MERRILL LYNCH CAPITAL MARKETS
PRUDENTIAL-BACHE	ROBERTSON, COLMAN & STEPHENS	SALOMON BROTHERS INC.
SHEARSON/AMERICAN EXPRESS INC.	SMITH BARNEY, HARRIS UPHAM & CO.	WERTHEIM & CO., INC.
DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.	ALLEN & COMPANY	F. EBERSTADT & CO., INC.
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ARNHOLD AND S. BLEICHROEDER, INC.	BASLE SECURITIES CORPORATION	ROBERT FLEMING
KLEINWORT, BENSON	ULTRAFIN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION	BUCKMASTER & MOORE
HAMBROS BANK	CREDIT COMMERCIAL de FRANCE	PICTET INTERNATIONAL

## NEW ISSUE

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

June, 1983



U.S. \$250,000,000

## Caisse Nationale de Crédit Agricole

Floating Rate Notes Due 1995

with Warrants to purchase

U.S. \$125,000,000 10% Bonds Due 1989

Kidder, Peabody International  
Limited

Merrill Lynch International & Co.

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Banque Paribas

Chase Manhattan Capital Markets Group  
Chase Manhattan Limited

Crédit Lyonnais

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

Daiwa Europe  
Limited

First Chicago  
Limited

Goldman Sachs International Corp.

London & Continental Bankers  
Limited

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited

Morgan Guaranty Ltd

Morgan Stanley International

Nippon Credit International (HK) Ltd.

Société Générale de Banque S.A.

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Crédit Agricole

U.S. \$100,000,000

## Merrill Lynch Overseas Capital N.V.

(Incorporated with limited liability in the Netherlands Antilles)

Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1984

Unconditionally Guaranteed by

Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc.

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned Notes and Fiscal Agency Agreement dated as of November 15, 1981 between Merrill Lynch Overseas Capital N.V., Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., and Citibank, N.A., notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest has been fixed at 10 1/2% pa and that the interest payable on the relevant Interest Payment Date, December 6, 1983, against Coupon No. 8 in respect of US\$10,000 nominal of the Notes, will be US\$260.68.

September 6, 1983, London

By: Citibank, N.A. (CSSI Dept), Agent Bank

CITIBANK



## BANCO DO BRASIL S.A.

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U.S. \$30,000,000

due 6th March, 1985

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Agent Bank

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited



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## INTL. COMPANIES & FINANCE

### Sime Darby profits down by 47%

BY WONG SULONG IN KUALA LUMPUR

SIME DARBY, Malaysia's largest company, recorded a 47 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to 111m ringgit (U.S.\$47m) for the year to June. The decline, which is in line with analysts' expectations, is the third successive fall in profits and brings them to the lowest since 1975. Group turnover fell by 20 per cent to 2.17bn ringgit.

Net attributable earnings were 34m ringgit higher at 130.6m ringgit due to gains from the sale of plantation land.

Sime said the recession hit the tractors division severely, and profits there dropped by more than 90 per cent to a mere 7.9m ringgit from 86.3m ringgit.

The division suffered from high stocks and poor sales due to low demand in the timber logging and construction sectors.

The plantation division was affected by low commodity prices, particularly for palm oil, while political uncertainties and a weak Hong Kong dollar trimmed earnings from operations in the colony.

The only areas to perform satisfactorily were Sime's activities in India, covered by its associate Shaw Wallace, and its tyre business in the Philippines.

Sime drastically reduced its operations in the western division in 1982-83 after suffering heavy losses in recent years, and moved strongly into engineering to service Malaysia's expanding oil and gas industry.

The engineering subsidiary, Sime Crest, performed profitably and last month Sime entered into joint ventures with the Singapore-based Sembawang Shipyard for a

fabrication plant in Johore and with Nippon Kokkan of Japan to tender for oil and gas engineering projects.

Sime's two major listed subsidiaries, Consolidated Plantations and Tractors Malaysia, have also reported poor results, with Tractors recording a loss for the first time in more than a decade.

Consolidated Plantation's pre-tax earnings fell to 50m ringgit from 75m ringgit. A higher rubber price in the second half was helpful, but not sufficient to offset the 21 per cent decline in palm oil prices.

At Tractors Malaysia, pre-tax profits fell to 25.5m ringgit from 61.6m ringgit, and a provision of 36.3m ringgit against stocks and bad debts resulted in a net after-tax loss of 11.3m ringgit against a net profit of 40.3m ringgit.

However, net attributable profits at Consplant and Tractors were 127m ringgit and 85m ringgit respectively (against 69.6m and 40.3m ringgit) due to gains from the sale of estate land and of tractors Singapore.

Sime's final dividend is 6.8 cents gross making an unchanged 10.8 cents for the year. Consplant is paying 5 cents, making a total of 10 cents against 14.3 cents, and Tractors' final is 20 cents, making an unchanged 30 cents.

Analysts expect much better profits for Sime and its subsidiaries in the current financial year with a firming up of commodity prices, and Tractors Malaysia is expected to return to profit after a massive cost-cutting exercise and projected higher sales.

Chris Sherwell on a difficult year for Malaysia's largest group

### World recession takes its toll

ON A clear day, Sime Darby's 28th floor offices in the heart of Kuala Lumpur offer a spectacular view of a fast-growing city set among fine green hills. Discernible in the distance is the start of some of the company's vast rubber, oil palm, and cocoa plantations.

For board members planning strategy for Malaysia's leading plantation and trading company, the panoramic vista must have brought little solace over the past year. As the results for the 12 months to June illustrate, it has been a dismal time as the deepening world recession has taken an ever-growing toll.

Although the company is diversified, it depends heavily on its plantation division and on its heavy equipment arm, Tractors Malaysia, which holds both the Caterpillar franchise for heavy equipment and the Ford Motor franchise for agricultural and construction machinery.

Last year these two contributed more than 80 per cent of group pre-tax profits. This year, the plantation division alone contributed more than half. But both performed disappointingly this year—indeed, Sime says the fall in profits at Tractors Malaysia was the main reason for the decline in group earnings.

Tractors Malaysia's net trading loss—the first it has ever experienced—is a result of the world recession's severe impact on the timber and construction industries in Malaysia, the company says. An anticipated improvement in demand in the logging sector, particularly in East Malaysia, quite simply didn't materialise.

Depressed demand in turn meant squeezed margins for both new and used equipment as competition stiffened, and Sime moved at the end of 1982 to

reduce staff numbers, cut overheads, and make changes in management. The dire state of the market is reflected in Sime's exceptional provision of 36m ringgit against stocks and debtors.

Tractors Malaysia is nevertheless reckoned to be in a stronger financial position now as a result of the sale of Tractors Singapore, which helped boost attributable profits for the company to 85m ringgit. It expects to return to profitable trading in the present financial year.

For the plantations division, the results suggest that such recovery as there has been in world commodity prices has mostly come too late to help the company recover ground it lost in the first half. The exception is rubber, where prices began to improve earlier this year, but this simply helped the division avoid even lower earnings.

#### Prices strengthened

Palm oil prices, for example, slipped around 20 per cent during the year, but these have strengthened considerably in recent weeks and should help the division in 1984. For Sime's listed subsidiary, Consolidated Plantations, as with Tractors Malaysia, extraordinary items—in this case, the sale of estate land—helped offset the decline in earnings and boosted profit available for distribution.

One sidelight on the plantation division's performance concerns Sime's biotechnology agreement with the International Plant Research Institute of California. This has apparently been rather less productive than hoped. The idea was that the joint venture

would encourage the transfer of new and exciting technology in the field of tropical agriculture.

Other trouble spots for Sime, though less serious in their overall impact, have been the group's Western and Hong Kong divisions. The Western division, covering activities in Britain, Europe and the U.S., showed pre-tax losses in both 1981 and 1982. This year the division broke even, but in the words of one senior executive, the past year has provided "colossal headaches."

Indeed, the board may now be approaching the stage where it needs convincing that it is worth going on operating in Britain. It is understood that some senior executives already tend to examine minutely every proposal regarding UK operations for a flaw which might make it unnecessary to go ahead.

This is not to say that Sime will move out of London altogether. The city remains too important a commodity trading centre for that. But the experience of two strikes which disrupted Sime's rice mill on the Thames has been sobering, not least as the company was not involved in either dispute.

Adding to Sime's British woes has been the vast expense resulting from the losses of Robert Bradford, the insurance broker, which was sold in June 1982. The company has set aside another 19.7m ringgit this year as a provision against these losses, bringing the total since 1977 to an estimated 65m ringgit to 70m ringgit.

A decline has occurred in Sime's Hong Kong division, which handles vehicles and equipment and has interests in consumer products, property management, and insurance. The fall in pre-tax profit partly

reflected a reduction in the number of cars sold because of a licence fee increase, but was also a result of a generally reduced level of business activity and, in the words of the company, "uncertainty over the political future of Hong Kong." To be set against all this are brighter performances from the Philippines and Malaysia divisions, with the latter turning around last year's loss, thanks in part to Sime's joint venture with Crest International in the oil and gas industry which produced increased profits.

#### Devaluation costs

In the Philippines the company feels it has had a good start with the success of its takeover of the B. F. Goodrich tyre company, but says earnings could have been even higher had the Philippine peso not been devalued. Indeed, it calculates that the reduced value of both the Philippines and Hong Kong currencies, when expressed in terms of the Malaysian ringgit, depressed group profit by 9m ringgit this year.

Overall, though, the figures tell the tale. Group pre-tax profit, down for the third year in succession, is at its worst level since the mid-1970s. Earnings per share have sunk from 12.9 cents to 7.4 cents. It has taken extraordinary gains to transform lower after-tax profits into a boosted level of attributable earnings.

No one is saying that Sime has any financial difficulties. But the hope must be that, with the difficult decisions taken this past year, and the prospect of higher world growth, the picture from the 28th floor of a Kuala Lumpur skyscraper will soon look a lot more comforting.

NEW ISSUE

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

August 1983



**Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd.**

(Daiwa Shoken Kabushiki Kaisha)

U.S. \$40,000,000

5½% Convertible Bonds Due 1998

Issue Price 100 per cent.

Daiwa Europe Limited

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

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Bank Mees & Hope N.V.	Bank of Tokyo International Limited	Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.
Banque Nationale de Paris	Banque de Neulize, Schlumberger, Mallet	Banque Paribas
Baring Brothers & Co., Limited	Bayerische Vereinsbank Aktiengesellschaft	
Berliner Handels-und Frankfurter Bank	Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations	
Citicorp Capital Markets Group	Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft	County Bank Limited
Crédit Commercial de France	Crédit Lyonnais	Creditanstalt-Bankverein
Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft	DG BANK Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank	
Dresdner Bank Aktiengesellschaft	Fuji International Finance Limited	
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Kidder, Peabody International Limited	Kleinwort, Benson Limited	Kreditbank International Group
Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb International, Inc.	Merrill Lynch Capital Markets	
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Westdeutsche Land-und-Bank Girozentrale	Wood Gundy Limited	Yamachi International (Europe) Limited

NEW ISSUE

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

August 1983



**Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd.**

(Daiwa Shoken Kabushiki Kaisha)

U.S. \$20,000,000

5½% Convertible Bonds Due 1998

Issue Price 100 per cent.

DBS-Daiwa Securities International Limited

Abu Dhabi Investment Company	Dai-ichi Kangyo Finance (Hong Kong) Limited
Dai-ichi Securities Pacific Limited	Daiwa Securities (H.K.) Limited
The Development Bank of Singapore Ltd	Indosuez Asia (Singapore) Limited
Jardine Fleming & Co. Ltd	Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting & Investment Co. (S.A.K.)
Kuwait International Investment Co. s.a.k.	Kuwait Investment Company (S.A.K.)
LTCB Asia Limited	Manufacturers Hanover Asia Limited
Mitsui Finance Asia Limited	The National Commercial Bank (Saudi Arabia)
New Japan Securities International (HK) Ltd.	The Nikko Securities Co. (Asia) Limited
Nippon Credit International (HK) Ltd.	Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru (Asia) Ltd.
Nomura International (Hong Kong) Limited	Orion Royal Pacific Limited
Sumitomo Finance (Middle East) E.C.	Tokai Asia Limited
United Merchant Bank Limited	Wardley Limited
Yamachi International (HK) Limited	Yamatane Securities (Hong Kong) Ltd.
Yasuda Trust and Finance (Hong Kong) Limited	

سكدا المالية







## MINING NEWS

## The influence of Big Red Dog

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

THE BIG RED DOG zinc lead deposit and nearby properties in Alaska, controlled by Cominco in partnership with the native people, will influence the world zinc and lead mining industry for many decades and will be as important to Cominco in the next century as the Sullivan mine in southern British Columbia has been in this century.

Thus says Mr Norman Anderson, chairman of Cominco, the major mining arm of the Canadian Pacific group, reports Robert Gibbons from Montreal. The future Red Dog mining operation and the Highland Valley copper development in British Columbia will provide the basis of Cominco's operations for at least the next 50 years.

Red Dog, in north-west Alaska, some 50 miles from deep water in the Chukchi Sea, was discovered by accident in 1965 by Bob Baker, a veteran Alaska bush pilot. His aerial sightings of mineralisation were later confirmed by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The mine is still in the early planning stage but, assuming that metal prices improve, it could be in production by 1987 and, says Cominco, eventually it could be the largest and richest open-pit zinc-lead mining operation ever seen.

At present its prospective working life is reckoned to be at least 50 years. Drilling done so far has indicated ore reserves of 77m tonnes with average grades of 17 per cent zinc, 5 per cent lead and 2.8 ounces of silver per tonne.

## Australians boosted by hopes of oil find

AUSTRALIAN OIL and gas issues staged a further strong advance in Dow Jones and London stockmarkets yesterday, boosted by increasing hopes of a new and major oil and gas discovery in the Jabiru 1 well in the Vulcan Basin off the coast of the Northern Territory.

Participants in the well are, among others, BHP, Ampol Exploration and Westpac. Australia, all of which made the running in the share markets.

Elsewhere on the Australian oil exploration scene Bore Petroleum announced a discovery at its 25 per cent owned Bore 2 well, located 20 km north-east of Barrow Island, off the coast of Western Australia.

Bore said a drill stem test of the interval between 2,037 and 2,038.5 metres—the well has a target depth of 4,100 metres—established a partially stabilised flow rate of 850 barrels of oil a day through a half-inch choke.

Testing of the 2,032 to 2,033.5 metre zone is expected to be completed later this week. Bore 2 is being drilled in about 25m of water.

Other interests in the well, drilled in February 1982, are Occidental Australia, 27 per cent; Getty Oil, 17 per cent; Texas Eastern, 10 per cent; Reading and Bates, 10 per cent; Peniston, 7.5 per cent; and Petrol 5 per cent.

Recent oil strikes off Barrow Island include the South Pepper, North Merold, and Cheryl discoveries.

Meanwhile, Australia's leading offshore oil and gas explorer and producer, Santos, reports a 513 barrels of oil a day discovery at its 40 per cent owned Chookoo 1 exploration well in the Queensland sector of Cooper Basin.

The discovery was made in a reservoir under a previously discovered gas find in the top of the Hutton sandstone.

Oil flowed on a test of the interval between 1,721 to 1,724 metres and was accompanied by gas which flowed at rate of 480,000 cubic feet a day.

Chookoo 1 is located 30 km south of the Jackson and Jackson South oilfields.

## Ok Tedi seeks finance

THE Ok Tedi Mining Company, which is developing the A\$1.6bn (€366m) gold and copper mine of that name in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, is reported from Tokyo to have approached seven Japanese copper smelting companies to provide part of the financing required.

A request for between US\$100m and US\$200m was understood to have been made in recent talks. In return Ok Tedi is reported to have offered to supply between 50,000 tonnes and 80,000 tonnes of copper concentrates a year from 1988 on a long-term basis.

Recoverable ore reserves at Ok Tedi, based on Mount Fubian in the west of Papua New Guinea close to the border with Indonesia, have been estimated at more than 400m tonnes.

The deposit can be regarded as a virtual core of copper mineralisation topped by a gold cap.

Mining production is expected to start in the first half of last year and will concentrate on the gold cap. Mining of the copper as well should begin about two years later. At planned extraction rates the mine has a life of between 25 and 30 years.

Ok Tedi Mining is owned by an international consortium comprised of Australia's Brierley Hill Proprietary (30 per cent); the U.S. Amoco Minerals, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Indiana (30 per cent); the Government of Papua New Guinea (20 per cent); and Kupferer Explorationgesellschaft, a consortium of West German metal companies, holding the rest.

## Echo Bay looks ahead

CANADA'S Echo Bay Mines has embarked on a C\$5m (£2.7m) expansion programme to lift annual gold production to more than 140,000 ounces from last year's 120,000 ounces. It is expected to be completed in the final quarter of this year.

Net earnings for the second quarter of C\$2.14m bring the half-year total to C\$5.5m, compared with a loss of C\$1.45m in the same period of last year when the new Lupin mine in the Northwest Territories had not reached the commercial production stage.

Echo Bay, which carries out extensive gold bagging operations, paid semi-annual dividends of 5 cents on the common shares (earnings equalled 3 cents) and 66 cents.

C\$1.50 on the preferred on June 30. It is expected that the semi-annual dividend on the common shares will be maintained following the six-for-five share split.

Looking ahead, Echo Bay expects that its costs of gold production per ounce (excluding depreciation and amortisation) will be US\$320 in 1983 and US\$300 in 1984.

On this basis it estimates that earnings for 1983 applicable to the common shares, after deducting the preferred dividends, will equal 19 cents with a notional average gold price of US\$400 per ounce and 34 cents at US\$500. For 1984 similar earnings at US\$500 for gold would equal 19 cents.

## BIDS AND DEALS

## London &amp; Manchester in £20m property package

BY ALISON HOGAN

London & Manchester Securities is to take over the management of a number of properties formally managed by Arunbridge Group, the collapsed private property company of Mr Ronald Lyons.

The deal, for shares, should bring sufficient income for LMS to restore dividend payments in the next financial year when it plans to apply for a full listing on the Stock Exchange—acquired on Unlisted Securities Market quotation early in the year following a reverse takeover into Carlton Real Estates.

The development properties, worth around £20m, are owned by a European consortium through three Dutch Antilles companies, Puddel, Quinta and

Ramble Corporations. LMS will take over responsibility for the supervision of completion, maintenance, letting and selling of the sites in return for the issue of new shares which will leave the present owners with a 16 per cent stake in LMS whose directors, with a 37 per cent hold control.

LMS expects to make profits of £1.5m on letting and selling the four properties compared with a market capitalisation today of just over £2m.

The plan is that LMS will arrange the marketing of one property (a 72,000 sq ft office development in New ready to proceed) and will be paid £350,000 on realisation of the

investment, satisfied through the issue of shares.

On completion of the new transaction, LMS will purchase for £500,000 from the owners of the remaining three properties (in Hounslow, Grosvener Crescent, W1, and Bristol) the right to receive 30 per cent of the surplus over borrowings and other costs arising on the ultimate realisation of the properties. This sum of £300,000 will be satisfied by the issue of further shares, bringing the stake of the owners to 16 per cent. A representative of the present owners will be appointed to the LMS board.

LMS made pre-tax profits of £220,000, compared with losses of £133,000, in the year to December 1982.

## Progress on Sotheby bid probe

MR CECIL PARKINSON, the Trade and Industry Minister, is expected to announce within the next three to four weeks his decision on whether or not the Sotheby's by wealthy American businessman Mr Alfred Taubman can go ahead.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the Taubman bid, which topped an earlier offer from two other American businessmen, Mr Stephen Swid and Mr Marshall Cogan, has been sent to Mr Parkinson for his approval.

The speed with which the Commission has reported—less than three months since Mr Taubman announced his bid—has strengthened the view that it had no objections.

The Commission is normally given six months to carry out its work and may extend this if it is necessary.

Mr Taubman, a Detroit property developer, has offered 700p each for Sotheby's shares, including the 29.9 per cent held by Mr Cogan and Mr Swid.

In a controversial decision the former Trade Secretary, Lord

Cockfield, referred the original bid from Mr Swid and Mr Cogan to the Commission against the advice of the Office of Fair Trading.

The reasons given for the referral was the need to study the impact of the bid on London as a centre of the international art market and on the position of Sotheby's in that market.

The Trade Department said the bid did not constitute a threat to competition but it did raise issues of public interest. Mr Taubman's counterbid was also automatically referred to the Commission.

## SHARE STAKES

Sheraton Securities International—As at August 26 1983, Henry D. Clarke Junior was interested in 8,015 ordinary shares (20.84 per cent pre-rights capital) made up of 5,565m shares owned by Greenwith International (a company controlled by Mr Clarke) and 2,450m owned by Clabir International NV.

Shires Investment Trust—The Atlanta Baltimore and Chicago Regional Investment Trust has purchased a further 50,000 shares, taking holding to 222,500 (8.9 per cent).

Stewart Wrightson Holdings—Prudential Corporate Group of Companies is interested in 1,195,421 ordinary shares (5.1 per cent).

Tavener Rutledge—Brandon News Agents, together with subsidiary Youthbond, are beneficial owners of 119,500 shares (5.9 per cent).

Unitec—A. G. Macpherson, director, has disposed of 25,116 new full paid shares from his beneficial holding, and 7,375 new full paid shares from his holding as a trustee.

Wade Poteries—G. A. J. Wade, director, has disposed of 50,000 ordinary shares, thereby reducing his holding to 938,004 shares (9.18 per cent).

Explorator—Finance for the West has reduced its interest in ordinary stock units from

927,500 to 827,500 (6.56 per cent) and registered in name of Finpart nominees.

Shikolee Lubricants—Derbyshire—A further 60,000 shares were purchased in 1983 increasing holding to 423,500 shares (10.18 per cent).

Moorgate Mercantile (Holdings)—Company has been formed by Donatien International Group that a subsidiary has acquired a further 150,000 ordinary shares, together with 145m ordinary shares previously purchased. Dominant interest in Moorgate now aggregates 1.8m ordinary (8.37 per cent).

KFB Industries—Company has acquired 10 ordinary of £1 each

in Berpul Products, representing 10 per cent of issued capital, the company, the consideration being the issue of 20,000 ordinary in BPP.

Purpose of acquisition is to secure supply of glues to Artex, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BPP.

Legal and General Assurance has purchased 550,000 shares in BSR International, bringing its holding up to 5.16 per cent of the capital.

Lyle Shipping—Scottish Amicable Life Assurance and its associates hold or control 5.8 per cent of the Lyle ordinary capital.

## Sinclair Research profit jumps £5m to £13.8m

FOR the year ended March 31, 1983, consumer electronics products group Sinclair Research has reported a sharp increase in profits to £13.8m, up from £8.5m in 1982. Turnover for the 12 months doubled from £27.1m to £54.5m.

Established in July 1979 to develop and market new consumer electronics products, the company is 85 per cent owned by its founder and chairman Clive Sinclair.

He says the figures are encouraging and noted that the company's ZX Spectrum personal computer, introduced in 1982, had become "easily the best selling machine in the UK and in a number of overseas markets."

He adds that there remains much scope for innovation in the field and "I believe we will continue to lead the world with

future products."

Net operating expenses amounted to £42.03m (£17.93m) in 1983, compared with £31.9m. Interest and royalties receivable were £1.61m (£267,000), goodwill written off £34,000 and the pre-tax figure was £20.3m (nil).

Tax charge took £5.54m (£4.2m), leaving the available balance at £14.26m, against £8.5m in 1982.

The directors are paying a 1p dividend, because the chairman believes the company is expanding rapidly that I believe the interests of the shareholders are best served by internal reinvestment of the profits.

Shareholders' funds totalled £13.7m (£5.0m) as at March 31 last, and net current assets £9.18m (£3.67m).

## Nationwide Leisure turns in £79,000 at six months

Results of Nationwide Leisure for the six months ended April 30, 1983, reveal pre-tax profits of £79,000 from a turnover of £1.24m.

Directors of this Kingston-based USM quoted caravan park and camping retailer said that the business had been in the quietest trading period, but they look forward with confidence to the outcome of the full year's trading.

Operating profits amounted to £87,000 and the pre-tax figure, which was struck after interest of £18,000, was split as to: caravans parks £25,000, and other activities £62,000.

Tax charge was £41,000, but there was an extraordinary credit of £39,000 leaving a Park £18,000.

## Nova Knit chief optimistic

IN HIS annual statement to shareholders of Nova (Jersey) Knit, Mr Frederic Strasser, chairman, expressed optimism that following the reorganisation of the dyeing and finishing operation, there will have been created an "extremely efficient" manufacturing unit.

"You will begin to see the benefits when your company next summer when your company should resume its rightful place as market leader in its field," he declared.

It is too early to forecast, but when he reports at mid-year he will be in a better position to gauge the success of the reorganisation.

Mr Strasser says despite the reorganisation, shareholders' funds are little reduced, amounting to £3.17m, against £3.28m. Borrowings are cut from £597,000 to £290,000, but there is a £175,000 provision for closure costs. The cash position is strong at £1.56m (£14,000). Book value of quoted investments appeared at £142,000 (£136,000).

However, in view of the difficulties associated with the

balance of £77,000. Earnings per share are shown as 0.2p.

Directors say the caravan parks traded satisfactorily and the recording machines, continue to perform well.

Results for April of the retailing subsidiary Camping International, which was acquired with effect from March 29 1983, are as expected, the directors point out.

Extraordinary items comprised the realisation of revaluation surplus on the disposal of Oakdene Holiday Park, less trading loss to date of disposal, £38,000; cost of settlement of the litigation on termination of contract for the use of Matchams

reorganisation, the dividend total is cut to 4p (5.5p). Nova entered into a combined management and production agreement with E. Saaby (Nottingham), a subsidiary of George Spencer, as a result of which substantial economies of scale will be achieved. Agreement in principle has been reached whereby Nova is to obtain an option to acquire 51 per cent of the capital of Saaby at present held by Spencer.

## AUSTRALIA

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## BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	9 1/4%	Hambros Bank	9 1/4%
Al Baraka International	9 1/4%	Heritable & Gen. Trust	9 1/4%
Allied Irish Bank	9 1/4%	Hill Samuel	9 1/4%
Amro Bank	9 1/4%	C. Hoare & Co.	9 1/4%
Henry Ansbacher	9 1/4%	Hongkong & Shanghai	9 1/4%
Arundel Latham	9 1/4%	Kingsnorth Trust Ltd.	11 1/4%
Armo Trust Ltd.	9 1/4%	Knawley & Co. Ltd.	10 1/4%
Associates Cap. Corp.	9 1/4%	Lloyds Bank	9 1/4%
Banco de Bilbao	9 1/4%	Mallinall Limited	9 1/4%
Bank Hapsolim BM	9 1/4%	Edward Manson & Co.	10 1/4%
BCCI	9 1/4%	Midland Bank	9 1/4%
Bank of Ireland	9 1/4%	Morgan Grenfell	9 1/4%
Bank Leumi (UK) plc	9 1/4%	National Bk. of Kuwait	9 1/4%
Bank of Cyprus	9 1/4%	National Girobank	9 1/4%
Bank of Scotland	9 1/4%	National Westminster	9 1/4%
Banque Belge Ltd.	9 1/4%	Norwich Gen. Trst.	9 1/4%
Banque du Rhone	10 1/4%	P. S. Refson & Co.	9 1/4%
Barclays Bank	9 1/4%	Roxburgh Guarantee	10 1/4%
Benedicta Trust Ltd.	10 1/4%	Royal Trust Co. Canada	9 1/4%
Brenar Holdings Ltd.	9 1/4%	Standard Chartered	9 1/4%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	9 1/4%	Trade Dev. Bank	9 1/4%
Brown Shipley	10 1/4%	TCB	9 1/4%
CL Bank Nederland	9 1/4%	Trustee Savings Bank	9 1/4%
Canada Pernit Trust	10 1/4%	United Bank of Kuwait	9 1/4%
Castle Court Trust Ltd.	10 1/4%	United Mizrahi Bank	9 1/4%
Cayzer Ltd.	10 1/4%	Volkskas Intl. Ltd.	9 1/4%
Cedar Holdings	10 1/4%	Westpac Banking Corp.	9 1/4%
Charterhouse Japhet	10 1/4%	Whiteway Ltd.	10 1/4%
Choulatons	10 1/4%	Williams & Glens	9 1/4%
Citibank Savings	10 1/4%	Winttrust Secs. Ltd.	9 1/4%
Clydesdale Bank	9 1/4%	Yorkshire Bank	9 1/4%
C. E. Coates	10 1/4%		
Comm. Bk. of N. East	9 1/4%		
Consolidated Credits	9 1/4%		
Co-operative Bank	9 1/4%		
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	9 1/4%		
Duncan Lawrie	9 1/4%		
E. T. Trust	10 1/4%		
Exeter Trust Ltd.	10 1/4%		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	11 1/4%		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	11 1/4%		
Robert Fraser	10 1/4%		
Grindlays Bank	9 1/4%		
Guinness Mahon	9 1/4%		

## TATE &amp; LYLE PLC

(Registered in England No. 76535)

## 1 for 4 Rights Issue

It was announced on 1st September, 1983 that the Directors are raising approximately £41 million by a 1 for 4 rights issue to holders of Ordinary Stock on the register at the close of business on 26th August, 1983 and to holders of Bearer Share Warrants.

Holders of Bearer Share Warrants who wish to claim their rights should note that relevant documents are available from The Secretary, Tate & Lyle PLC, Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6DQ during usual business hours on presentation of Coupon number 54. Holders applying by post should supply their name and address. Payment is due by 27th September, 1983.

By Order of the Board,  
C. F. McFie,  
Secretary.

## KENNEDY BROOKES

Lennoxcourt, a subsidiary of Kennedy Brookes, has reached agreement with Electricity Supply Nominees (ESN) on behalf of the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, to develop the catering rights to the Trocadero site close to Piccadilly Circus—a number of restaurants and bars will be involved.

ESN, the freeholder, has agreed to contribute £15m towards the total cost approaching £3m. The balance will be provided principally from the existing resources of Kennedy and the remainder from commercial partners.

## DANIEL J. EDELMAN

## EXPANDS IN UK

International public relations group Daniel J. Edelman has announced three deals in a major expansion of its UK operations.

● The company has purchased the entire capital of Eric Williams and Partners increasing its annual income in the UK to well in excess of £1m.

● It has formed Edelman and Associates in partnership with other PR consultancies offering a first national PR service covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

● Edelman has also expanded its client services with the purchase of a 26 per cent stake in Alan Robinson, the London incorporated design consultancy.



## Hongkong Electric Holdings Ltd

## NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

## RESULTS FOR THE

## HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1983

	Six months ended 30th June 1983	1982
	(HK\$ million)	(HK\$ million)
Summary of Results		
Turnover	1,268.0	1,081.0
Profit attributable to shareholders	357.2	301.9
Earnings per share	30.0 cents	25.4 cents
Interim Dividend per share	15.0 cents	13.0 cents

Net earnings and earnings per share have increased by 18% as compared to 1982. An interim dividend of 15 cents per share will be paid on the 24th October, 1983, representing an increase of 15.4% over the 1982 interim dividend.

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS AND OUTLOOK

An additional 125MW unit was successfully commissioned at the Lamma Power Station in April this year bringing the coal-fired plant to 625MW which represents some 40% of the company's generating capacity. Unit sales of electricity in the first half-year were some 15% higher than in the first half of 1982. This growth rate was higher than had been anticipated but it is too early to predict whether this trend will continue through the second half of 1983. Sales of electrical appliances by Fortress were encouraging with sales up by 40% for the half year. In particular a good start has been made in exporting Fortress branded products to the Middle East. Sales of flats in the City Garden development of International City Holdings Limited have shown considerable improvement with 95% of the units in Phase I now having been sold. The Directors are confident that the profitability of the Group will remain satisfactory and that a final dividend of not less than 25 cents per share will be recommended.

## REGISTRATION

To qualify for the interim dividend, transfers should be lodged with the registrars by 4.00 p.m., Tuesday, 20th September, 1983. The Register of Members will be closed from 21st September, 1983, to 30th September, 1983 (both days inclusive).

D. K. Newbigging, Chairman

Hong Kong, 2nd September, 1983.

Registered Office: Electric House, 44 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong.

## simon ENGINEERING Interim Report

for the six months to 30 June 1983 (unaudited)

	Six months ended 30 June 1983	Six months ended 30 June 1982	Year ended 31 December 1982
Turnover	159,433	162,321	362,573
Trading profit	5,234	5,073	13,980
Share of profits of principal associated companies	102	419	1,156
Interest receivable less payable	2,072	2,108	5,526
Profit before tax	7,408	7,600	20,682
Profit after tax	5,163	5,221	14,187
Minority interests	(506)	(444)	(949)
Earnings for the period	4,657	4,777	13,348
Earnings per ordinary share	13.8p	18.3p	51.1p
Ordinary Dividend—interim 4p per share (equivalent, with imputed tax credit, to 5.7143p: 1982—same)	1.041	1.041	—

The world trade recovery, of which we saw signs in the earlier part of the year, is turning out to be very modest. As I said in my published statement for 1982, there is a limit to how far we can continue our record of growth unless there is both an improvement in UK and international investment and some abatement in the intense international competitive pressure on our margins. So far we see few signs of either.

It is consequently still difficult to forecast accurately the outcome for the year end. It will not be easy to match the record performance of last year but it remains our aim to do so. Given that world trade continues to recover we shall see in 1984 and later years the benefits of all our recent work in improving our activities and operations.

Harry Harrison Chairman  
SIMON ENGINEERING PLC  
Chesham Heath, Stockport,  
Cheshire, SK3 0RT.



## UK COMPANY NEWS

## Macfarlane ahead midway

IN SPITE of continuing difficult trading conditions Macfarlane Group (Cinemas) pushed its pre-tax profits up from £1.05m to £1.16m for the opening half of 1983 from turnover £1.7m ahead at £17.33m.

Group chairman, Sir Norman Macfarlane, points out that the results would have shown a considerable improvement had it not been for losses incurred by the companies engaged in copying products and office supplies—Farquharson Brothers and Cyro Copigraph between them lost over £100,000 in the period under review, a major part of which was caused by non-recurring redundancy payments and a large debt in Farquharson.

Half year earnings improved from an adjusted 3.33p to 3.67p per 25p share and the net interim dividend has been effectively increased by 0.153p to 1.67p—a final of 2p was paid previously.

Sir Norman says trading patterns are exceedingly unpredictable at present but adds that the excellent month's trading which the group achieved in March was followed three months later by a record June—the group is engaged in packaging and printing.

Although trading conditions are likely to remain difficult for the rest of the year the directors face the future with "confidence and optimism."

## BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether the dividends are interim or final and the subdivisions shown below are based mainly on last year's times.

**TODAY**  
Interim—James Gattie, Grammar, English and New York Trust, Eco International, IMI, Keda International, Lambert Horwath, Molen, J. N. Nichols (Vintor), Murlin and Pasco, Panica, Provident Financial, Reckitt and Calman, Robinson, Groff, (Fydes Green), Shere and Fisher, Stewart Wrightson, Wadkin, Wilson (Connolly), Plesch—Centor, Datzewitz, PNC, Land Investors, Ricardo Consulting Engineers.

**FUTURE DATES**  
Interim—  
AFV ..... Sept 29  
Air Call ..... Sept 14

Controlled Packaging Services, of Westbury, Wilt, the group's most recent acquisition, performed well as did N. S. Macfarlane (Furniture) of Glasgow, South Brothers of Kilmarnock and MBBP (Cinemas) of Paisley.

In spite of continuing difficulties being experienced by the Scotch whisky industry group companies involved in this sector again traded successfully with Abbott's Packaging of London, A. and W. Fullarton of Govan and Daniel Montgomery of Kirkcaldy all making significant contributions to group progress.

**Automotive Products** ..... Sept 8  
STR ..... Sept 13  
BVO ..... Sept 8  
Baird (William) ..... Sept 15  
Bodycote International ..... Sept 18  
Bosker McConnell ..... Sept 15  
Burmah Oil ..... Sept 14  
Cablecast Hoby ..... Sept 14  
Eagle Star ..... Sept 14  
Family Investment Trust ..... Sept 7  
Horton ..... Sept 13  
Hurst (Charles) ..... Sept 30  
Kleinwort Benson Lonsdale ..... Sept 20  
Mansel (John) ..... Sept 22  
Merchants Trust ..... Sept 12  
Pearson (S.) ..... Sept 12  
Ruralia ..... Sept 8  
Schreders ..... Sept 8  
United States Cabotage Corp. ..... Sept 29  
Wimsey (George) ..... Sept 29  
Wolstenholme Rink ..... Sept 12  
Woodworth ..... Sept 14

The group's very positive cash flow resulted in borrowings being reduced. At the end of August total borrowings amounted to only £375,000.

Within the next two months Macfarlane will complete acquisitions, each of which is relatively small. It is also involved in several "interesting negotiations" with complete negotiations. First half tax accounted for £602,000 (£547,000) to leave net profits at £558,000, compared with £505,000—for the 1982 year the group reported taxable profits of £2.15m.

## Sunleigh first half profit of £177,000

A profit of £177,000 has been made by Sunleigh Electronics for the half year ended June 30 1983. Traditionally, this period is the greater profit earner, and the second half is not expected to produce such a high figure. The directors state that the group continues to trade well. This group makes electronic equipment to customers' specifications and distributes optical equipment, and recorded a turnover of £1.18m in the first half. After tax £79,000 and expenses of acquisitions and USM share placing, together with ex-gratia payments to former directors £15,000, there is an attributable loss of £20,000. Before the extraordinary item earnings are shown at 0.43p per share.

## Water issue

Seymour Pierce has placed £3.6m of Eastbourne Waterworks Company 12½ per cent Redeemable Debenture Stock 2004 at par. Comparative gilt and yielding approximately 11 per cent to redemption. Dealings will start £10 per cent paid, at 2 pm tomorrow. The balance is payable on September 28.

## RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

**BENJAMIN PRIEST GROUP** (building products, fasteners, drop forgings and fasteners)—Results for the year to April 1, 1983, reported August 16. Net current assets £2.97m (£4.13m); fixed assets £10.32m (£11.7m); shareholders' funds £12.63m (£14.42m); turnover £22.02m (£22.02m); net liquid funds £22.02m (£1.02m).

Ex-gratia payment for former director £20,000 (£25,000). Meeting: Cradley Heath, Weymouth, Dorset, on September 27, at 2.15 pm.

**JAN BROTHERS BLIST**—Pre-tax profit for year to May 29, 1983, turnover £3.4m (£3.8m); pre-tax profit £447,000 (£570,000); tax £228,000 (£240,000).

**F. H. TOMKINS** (printed booklets, steel fasteners)—Results for year ended May 1, 1983, reported August 15. Shareholders' funds £7.02m (£8.72m); fixed assets £2.02m (£1.86m); net current assets £5.62m (£5.04m). Meeting: Port House, Great Barr, September 29, noon.

**SMITH WHITWORTH** (carpet and vinyl handling and curing machinery)—Results for year to March 31, 1983, and prospects, reported August 24. Shareholders' funds £707,825 (£700,350); bank loan £1,428 (£20,744); fixed assets £355,401 (£201,233); net current assets £126,353 (£56,771) including secured bank overdraft £214,850 (£209,930); increase in working capital £24,558 (decrease £301,469) including rise in cash and bank balances £52,385 (fall £153,275). Meeting: Manchester, October 3, noon.

**COURT'S (FURNITURE)** (retailer of household furniture, carpets and bedding)—Results for the year to the end of March 1983 reported on August 16. Shareholders' funds £23m (£25.81m); fixed assets £21.73m (£21.73m). Net current assets £21.1m (£15.12m). Increase in working capital £2.4m (£1.2m). Meeting: Milton, Surrey on September 23 at 11 am.

**LONGTON INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS** (transport, stores and distribution)—Results for the year to March 31, 1983 already known. As at end of March 1983 net current assets £2m (£4.3m); ordinary shareholders' funds £10.15m (£9.71m); increase in net working capital £271,000 (£1,45m).

debt £141,000 (£231,000). Dividend 2.25p net (2p); earnings per share 12.5p (10.4p) after adjusted. **SAMUEL HEATH & SONS** (brass, metal products)—Dividend 20p (15p) for year to March 31, 1983. Turnover £3.4m (£3.8m); pre-tax profit £447,000 (£570,000); tax £228,000 (£240,000).

**F. H. TOMKINS** (printed booklets, steel fasteners)—Results for year ended May 1, 1983, reported August 15. Shareholders' funds £7.02m (£8.72m); fixed assets £2.02m (£1.86m); net current assets £5.62m (£5.04m). Meeting: Port House, Great Barr, September 29, noon.

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**LONGTON INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS** (transport, stores and distribution)—Results for the year to March 31, 1983 already known. As at end of March 1983 net current assets £2m (£4.3m); ordinary shareholders' funds £10.15m (£9.71m); increase in net working capital £271,000 (£1,45m).

decrease); increase in net bank overdrafts £1.53m (£139,000). Meeting: Stoke-on-Trent, September 23 at noon.

**COUNTY PROPERTIES GROUP**—Results for the year to March 31 1983 and prospects reported August 12. Shareholders' funds £3.1m (£7.46m). Fixed assets £40,000 (£37,000). Net current assets £37,000 (£29,000). Increase in net short-term borrowing £236,000 (£75,000). Meeting: York, September 15, noon.

**AVANA GROUP** (food processors)—Results for the year to April 2 1983 reported on August 15. Shareholders' funds £40.25m (£32.94m). Fixed assets £21.37m (£12.11m). Net current assets £21.21m (£15.11m). Northern Foods holds 20.33 per cent of ordinary shares. Meeting: Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, EC, on September 16 at noon.

**REARDON SMITH LINE** (shipping)—Results for March 31 1983 and prospects reported August 10. Group shareholders' funds £3.34m (£12.72m); fixed assets £12.12m (£22.33m); net current assets £662,802 (£2,46m); decrease in net liquid funds £2.9m (£0.57m increase). Meeting: Cardiff, September 15, 11 am.

**WINTERBOTTOM ENERGY TRUST**—Results for the year to the end of August 1983 reported August 28 at 8.1p after deducting prior charges at par and 32.4p after deducting prior charges at market value.

**DAVID O. SMITH HOLDINGS** (manufacture of photocopied printed packaging material)—Results for the year to April 30, 1983 reported August 15. Fixed assets £26,475 (£21,595); net current assets £1,355m (£1,58m); shareholders' funds £1.85m (£1.95m); decrease in bank and cash balances £315,887 (increase £215,438). Meeting: Kingsley Hotel, WC, on September 30 at noon.

## A FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

## CHINA AS A BUSINESS PARTNER

The Financial Times proposes to publish a Survey on the above. The provisional date and editorial synopsis are set out below.

12 OCTOBER 1983

Copy Date 19 September

**INTRODUCTION** The door to China has opened wider under the regime of Deng Xiaoping and his more liberal economic policies. What are the opportunities, the rewards and the pitfalls of doing business in China? How stable is the political environment? How capable is the Chinese economy of absorbing foreign technology and how adaptable is the system to changes and to outside ideas? This article will sketch broad answers to these key questions.

**ECONOMY** An analysis of the performance of the Chinese economy in the past year, the effects of the new, more liberal policies in the countryside and the industrial centres. The balance between heavy and light industry. An interview with a top Chinese leader.

**TRADE** A comprehensive overview in words and charts of China's trading patterns. How have these changed since the days of Mao Tse-tung? Where are they headed and what are the growth areas of the future?

**POLITICS** Deng Xiaoping appears to have taken a firmer grip over the key political institutions in the country as well as the army. His appointees seem more secure in their jobs. Is this likely to last or will the dormant left-wing lobby strike back?

**FOREIGN POLICY** China's foreign policy is settling down into a more even-handed posture towards the superpowers, although the links with the U.S. remain stronger. The problems of Hong Kong and Taiwan dominate relations with the West, while relations with the Third World are becoming closer.

## DOING BUSINESS

(a) China's trading organisations. The state, provincial and county levels. Where do they fit into the overall scheme of things, who runs them, how efficient are they, how helpful are they?

## (b) Profiles:

- (i) A state trading corporation;
- (ii) A provincial trading corporation;
- (iii) An independent trader.

(c) Have things really got easier for foreign business in China?

- (i) An article by a trader with twenty years' experience of dealing with the People's Republic.
- (ii) Profiles of four key business deals which have either won through or been frustrated and failed. One Japanese, a British deal, one from the U.S. and one from Australia.
- (iii) A brief guide to China's new legal framework and an assessment of how reliable it is.
- (iv) A comprehensive business guide to China. Where to stay, how to travel, what to say, what not to say and do, the pitfalls, the short cuts.

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(a) Heilongjiang Province. The far north. Site of the Daqing oil fields. The cradle of heavy industry. Living cheek by jowl with the Soviet Union. A brief analysis of the potential of China's \$32bn offshore oil development plans.

(b) Sichuan Province. China's granary and its largest province. Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang come from Sichuan where many of the present, new economic policies were first tested. How have they worked on the ground?

(c) Shanghai/Peking/Tientsin. The problems of urban development in China's big industrial centres.

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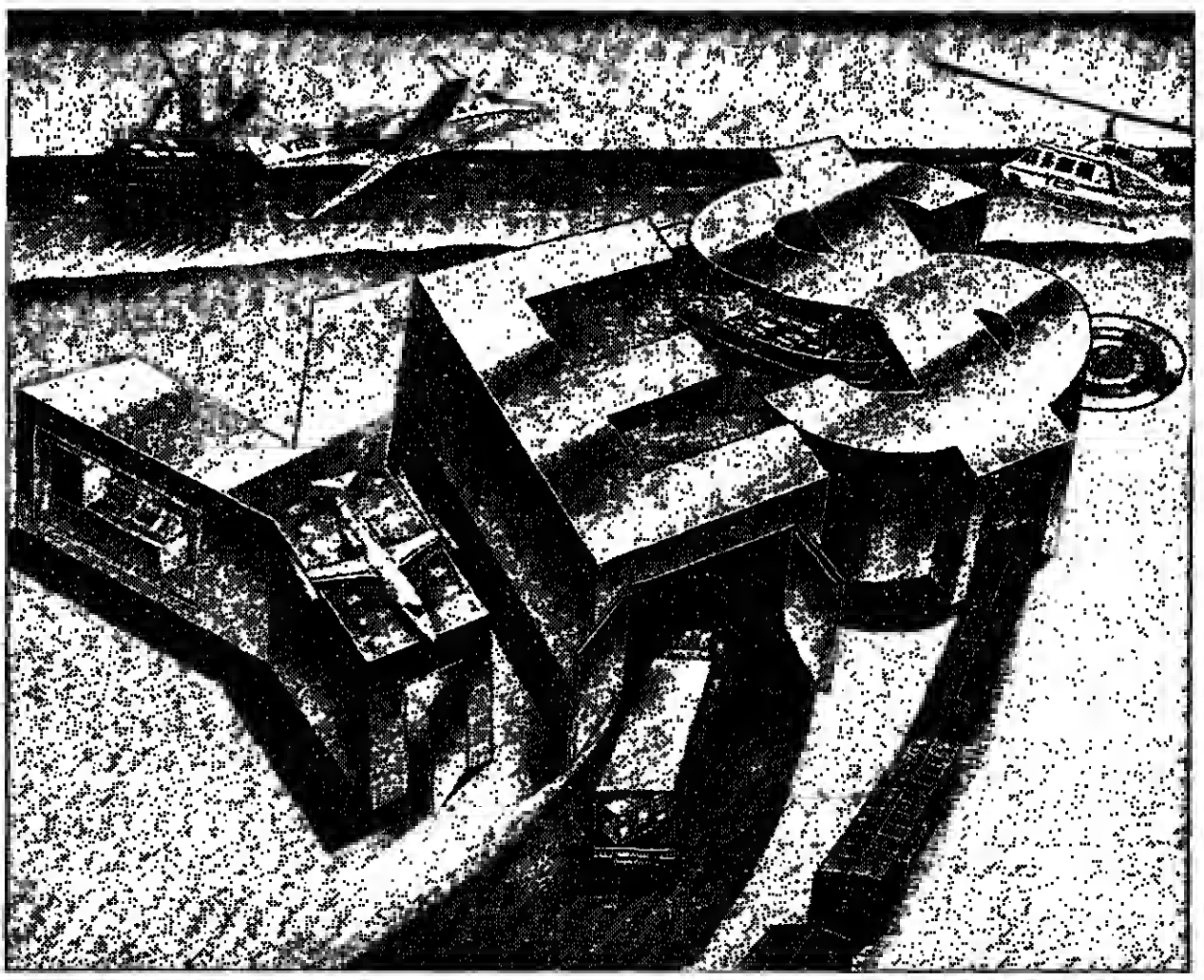
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# THE MANAGEMENT PAGE: Small Business

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

## A fruitful retirement

Tim Dickson reports on why an inventor decided to 'go it alone'

WHEN HE stepped down three years ago as chairman and managing director of a major private company, mechanical and mining engineer Allan Hilton was anticipating a relatively quiet retirement.

A proven inventor and a successful entrepreneur, 55-year-old Hilton intended to devote most of his spare time to dreaming up new product ideas and licensing the manufacturing rights to big companies.

He wanted, if possible, to avoid the headaches of running his own business.

Happily for Hilton, even the best-laid plans can go astray, for since then he has set up a brand new business (his third) called Hilton Products, has raised £250,000 of new equity from the Government-backed British Technology Group (BTG), and has embarked on a new manufacturing and marketing project which he considers to be one of the most exciting yet in his eventful life.

The objects of his present enthusiasm are two new products for the industrial and Do-It-Yourself markets called the "Terrier" and the "Beaver". The Terrier is a vice designed with a variable jaw length, which Hilton believes is "revolutionary," while the Beaver (which incorporates the Terrier) is a tough and compact workbench aimed at a similar sort of market as the famous and highly successful Black and Decker "Workmate" (the Beaver, however, has a significantly larger working area).

Ironically, Hilton has been forced to "go it alone" again because of what he calls the "generally dilatory" response of those large UK companies he has approached as potential licensees. (He admits, though, that since being turned down by two major companies just over a year ago he has considerably improved his original designs.)

"Innovators in the UK," he observes, "are at a considerable disadvantage when dealing with big companies. In my experience I have found that either the people you deal with believe no product idea is any good

unless they thought of it themselves or they are just not capable of or responsible for taking the suggestion on to the next stage. A lot of interesting work gets buried in their 'in trays'."

Hilton has particularly strong feelings on this subject since he has found that "it is impossible to be an innovator and to manage a company at the same time. It is no accident that most of my best ideas over the years have been conceived on holiday or when travelling." He nevertheless draws inspiration from the fact that Ron Hickman—the man who invented the Wemate and ultimately made a fortune with it—also had to take his idea beyond the production stage before others appreciated its enormous potential market.

Hilton Products was initially set up in 1981 to manufacture the "Jebezer"—an easily transportable and easily folded step ladder safety platform with safety rails for use in the home for decorating and similar purposes.

Although potential licensees showed little interest in it at the pre-production stage, the situation changed in February last year when the Jebezer was given a special award at the Birmingham International Spring Show. No fewer than four public companies came forward as possible partners and in May an agreement was reached to grant Beldray (part of Butterfield Harvey) manufacturing and sales rights in the UK and 23 other countries. Three months later a similar licence was negotiated with a West German company.

Hilton had hoped to sign similar royalty deals for the Beaver and Terrier but once again he ran into trouble trying to find interested licensees. Hence the recent deal with the BTG's North West Regional Enterprise Board to finance new production facilities at the company's Bolton headquarters.

Besides providing badly needed working capital, the money has been used to pay for



Allan Hilton: "It is impossible to be an innovator and manage a company at the same time."

a large moulding machine for processing the Beaver's polypropylene worktop (according to Hilton this investment was required to keep the Beaver's price below £60).

Production apart, Hilton is well aware that the major challenges for his new company will be marketing and selling the Beaver and Terrier on a worldwide scale—an exercise he will not be attempting for the first time.

In 1967, for example, he helped form the Universal Anchorage Company, which subsequently became one of the leading specialist ground anchor contracting organisations both in the UK and overseas.

And in 1971 he left to set up Mining Developments, a business whose range of underground mining machines was initially targeted at the National Coal Board but which since 1975 has bailed up export sales in more than 20 countries. "The Coal Board certainly allows you to manufacture profitably," recalls Hilton, "but I know from my Mining Development days that the cream and jam of any business comes from exports. I reckon that 90 per cent of the market for the Beaver and Terrier lies outside the UK."

Hilton is thus busy seeking worldwide distributors and

direct retail outlets for his new products, particularly in the United States. But, significantly, he continues to look for new licensees. "It's a big world and we are only a little company," he admits. "The best way of expanding in future will almost certainly be by enlisting the support of other people rather than attempting to do it all ourselves."

The BTG, meanwhile, will be hoping that its investment in Hilton Products—besides creating 15 new jobs and safeguarding other employment in the area—will provide a useful example of how to translate the fruits of research and development into a viable commercial operation.

Its 30 per cent equity stake should ensure a healthy return if all continues to go well, but a key part of the deal from Hilton's point of view is an option giving him the right to buy back the BTG interest at any time (the price being determined by reference to an agreed formula).

"My son is in the business and my main motivation now is to be able to build something up which I can pass on to him," he says. The good things about the BTG is that they do not seem to be looking for quick results and thanks to this buy-back facility I will be able to keep control in the family."

## In brief...

MORE THAN 5100m of potential orders will be on offer to small and medium sized businesses in the UK at this month's Can You Make It? exhibition in London. Some 600 or so components and sub-assemblies will be on show and the orders will be available to those companies which can match the price, quality and delivery dates of those overseas companies presently supplying the products.

The show is the second of its kind in Britain. The first, a year ago, attracted widespread interest, though the organisers, which include the Confederation of British Industry and the London Enterprise Agency, admit that the number of new orders placed as a result was probably limited. The forthcoming event, however, seems particularly timely in view of the gloomy news that Britain's trade in manufactured goods has gone into deficit this year.

Among the 60 companies taking part in the exhibition, which is to be held at the London West Hotel in Hammersmith on September 26 and 27, are British Steel, British Gas, Britoil, Esso, Glaxo, Thorn-EMI, and Vauxhall Motors. Vauxhall Motors is launching a new Bedford van to be launched next year. At present the van has a British content of just over 50 per cent, but the company wants to raise this to 80 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATION of Independent Businesses has called for small firms to be represented on the National Economic Development Council (NEDC). This follows the announcement by the Chancellor that a Treasury team is to report to NEDC on the sectors where jobs in Britain are most likely to be created.

MOST PEOPLE considering self-employment for the first time are surprised by the amount of pre-launch planning and research recommended by the experts. This is one of the most significant findings of a questionnaire sent to over 800 people who attended London Enterprise Agency one day courses in 1982-83.

Four one-day courses have been arranged by LENTA at different London venues over the next four months (the first at Kensington Town Hall

is on Saturday). A more advanced course, running over four weekends, is also available from LENTA for those who have made the decision to go ahead. Details from LENTA on 01-248 4444.

THE 1970s saw a vast increase in small business research and literature and this trend has continued in the 1980s. In an attempt to collect and classify such work, the London Business School in early 1980 published the London Business School Small Business Bibliography. This was subsequently followed by two supplements. Now a complete and updated second edition is available, containing 4,356 entries, the majority of which refer to work published since 1970 and over 25 per cent of which has been published since 1980. It is available, price £65 from Alan Armstrong and Associates, The Business Bookshop, 72 Park Road, London NW1 4SH.

FINANCE FOR expansion is available if you look for it, judging by the experience of Peter Antill, managing director of the Slough-based computer software house, Comac Systems.

Comac took advantage of a £50,000 loan under the Barclays Business Start scheme earlier this year, and at the same time became eligible for a £103,000 grant from the Department of Trade and Industry and the National Computer Centre.

Now the company is hoping to raise a further £250,000 by way of the Business Expansion Scheme, another Government measure and one which enables individuals to claim tax relief on new equity commitments to unquoted companies.

Proceeds from the placing of 15 per cent of Comac's equity—the issue is being handled by stockbrokers Northcote and Co—will be used to complete the development of Comac III, the company's new maintenance management system. Antill claims maintenance managers will be able to attain a level of performance previously possible only by queuing for the facilities of a mainframe computer or by buying a mini computer.

Comac also has designs on the United States and plans to use some of the new money to complete a full market survey.

## A dilemma retailers cannot discount

BRITAIN'S struggling smaller retailers are suddenly attracting increased attention.

The National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses, a small firms' representative organisation, and the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (CoSIRA), an agency of the Development Commission charged with improving the lot of small firms in the countryside, have both in their own ways been championing the cause of what many fear is a dying breed.

Anyone with their eyes open will have seen evidence in recent years of the decline of the small shop. The lure of large supermarkets, the need to stock a wide range of often slowly moving goods, and the difficulty of getting wholesalers to deliver in small quantities have all combined to bid hard this most British of institutions. Over half the country's grocery sales are now estimated to be in the hands of six companies and since 1971 50,000 small grocery shops have disappeared.

Some would argue that this is the inevitable consequence of free competition and that the lower prices available to large supermarkets through bulk purchasing and fast turnover are bound to be more appealing to the consumer than the convenience and personal service of the local store. Others, however, take a different view.

### Suffering

Conscious that many of its members are suffering as a result of the National Federation has been busy drawing attention to the question of what it calls "discriminatory discounts." This is the practice common among large suppliers of granting, or among large retailers of inducing, discounts which cannot be attributed to savings in the supplier's costs.

Evidence for this is hard to come by but the National Federation and others often cite the example of bread—the small shopkeeper's cheapest source of supply for this staple commodity is often his local supermarket, not his local wholesaler.

A delegation from the National Federation recently met Sir Gordon Borrie at the Office of Fair Trading and Alex Fletcher, junior minister at the Department of Trade and

Industry, only to be told that they still hold to the view put forward by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in May 1981, namely that discounting is not generally harmful and is beneficial to the consumer.

The Government appears to feel that extending legislation to protect retailers against "unfair" discounting, Fletcher said he would only be convinced by specific examples of large multiples putting pressure on manufacturers and wholesalers.

Frustrated by the reaction, the Federation is still considering its next step. Increased Parliamentary lobbying is one option but officials are also planning to play up the social costs of undue concentration in the retailing sector, paid for by the poor, elderly and immobile, particularly in rural areas.

Rural shopkeepers, indeed are the target of the CoSIRA initiative which was announced earlier in the summer. Increasingly well known for its aid, both financial and advisory, to rural manufacturing and service industries, CoSIRA has realised that there is little point in pursuing the policy if local services are allowed to wither. "You can't encourage a company to set up in the country if there's no shop nearby for, say, the telephone girl to pop out and buy her supper," explained a spokesman.

Although it realised that there are problems outside the control of village shopkeepers, CoSIRA also believes inadequate management skills (e.g. poor knowledge of VAT or tax) are often responsible for their downfall.

Plans to help are still at an early stage and initially priority will be given to the Development Commission's Special Investment Areas (SIAs). But the aim is to establish a confidential advisory service, build up contacts with prospective purchasers of village shops, run training courses (standard practices in many European countries) and help small shopkeepers negotiate more reasonable terms with wholesalers and suppliers.

CoSIRA's retail consultants have already identified 750 shops possibly at risk. More information from CoSIRA, 141 Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3TP.

Tim Dickson

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## TECHNOLOGY

## Wordstar—a dominant force in word processing

NEW IS not always better in the personal computer field. As standard hardware and operating systems emerge in the market place, few application programs have achieved the same status. Wordstar, published by Micropro International of San Rafael, California, is however an exception.

Competition is increasing in the personal computer software market but Wordstar, first introduced in 1979, has held its own against new products and trends. Though other word processing programs are often touted as easier to use, or easier to learn to use, Wordstar is the standard against which the others are measured.

Three-quarters of Micropro's sales come from its word-oriented personal computer products. Wordstar, the company's word-processing package, has twice as many users as any other word-processing system ever created.

Over the past couple of years Micropro has introduced sister products that put Wordstar's files into mailing systems, forms, reports and other business facility programs. The company has matured from an entrepreneurial concern founded four years ago to become the leading supplier of word-processing programs for personal computers.

Even by Silicon Valley's standards, Micropro's growth has been staggering. From 1979 gross revenues of \$439,000, the company's business has risen to gross sales for 1982 of \$22,312,000.

With one month left to go in its fiscal year, Micropro has already grossed \$10m which should bring its total for 1983 to over \$50m.

## Professional Personal Computing

Word processing is one of the most widely used personal business applications. This week the new column looks at one of the most popular programs on the market.

To keep on top of this growth, Micropro founder and president Seymour Rubinstein has already appointed his successor as president of the company.

"We needed someone who was accustomed to dealing with bigger numbers and managing a bigger organisation," explains Mr Rubinstein.

While planning to keep very much in touch with the running of his company as chairman, Mr Rubinstein will hand over the title of president and chief operating officer to Mr Glenn Haney, former senior vice-president at Sperry Univac.

For Mr Rubinstein, recognising the need for additional management talent at Micropro may be the first step toward taking his company public. "I would be happy to see us go public," he comments. So may a lot of eager investors.

Though Micropro's fortunes are largely based upon one winning product, the company has used the success of Wordstar to create new opportunities.

Programs such as those offered by Micropro are often designed to run on only one manufacturer's computer, or with only one type of operating system. Micropro has overcome that limitation by customising its programs for a wide range of hardware, and for the most popular operating systems.

The company has also entered into "own-label" agreements with several major computer manufacturers and sells its programs "bundled" with computer hardware as well as directly to the end user. Micropro has also come up with an answer to the efforts of Apple Computer and VisiCorp to redirect the software market toward "integrated" software programs that enable the user to switch from application to another "their systems let you play around, ours produce work. They may be easy to use, but they also make it easy to make a mistake," Mr Rubinstein comments.

"We offer a procedural integrated software system," explains Mr Rubinstein. Starburst, an integrating package for Wordstar and related products became available in the U.S. this month. The system allows managers to set up business procedures which can then be delegated.

Another aspect of Micropro's growth has involved the establishment of international subsidiaries in Europe and Japan. The company has developed a decentralised structure with local manufacturing, marketing and distribution as well as field sales and support offices.

LOUISE KEOHE

## Egypt's war on insect pests

BY THOMAS LAND

NEW TECHNIQUES in the use of radiation for genetic insect control point the way towards reducing the global dependence on toxic agricultural chemicals. Egypt has signed an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency for a big project to eradicate an expensive farm pest within four years.

It is about to deploy a peaceful nuclear weapon intended to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly, an important deterrent to food production in the Middle East. The \$19.3m project will start with the construction of a network of facilities for the rearing and release of billions of irradiated insects.

The scheme is to reduce Egypt's dependence on conventional pesticides. Though the Cairo government recently signed a comprehensive peaceful nuclear power development agreement with Canada, it is to rely on the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the radiation component of the eradication programme.

The project springs from an important symposium on the use of radiation in genetic insect control, held near Munich recently under the joint auspices of the IAEA and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The process has attracted the urgent attention of agricultural planners in many countries because it offers a way to insect control bypassing the prohibitive energy costs involved in the production of conventional pesticides as well as their undesirable effects on the environment.

The Medfly infests citrus and stone fruit in all farming areas of Egypt and severely restricts the expansion of food production. About 1.25 million acres of Egypt's arable land are used for the production of crops vulnerable to the insect. These areas are sprayed periodically with imported conventional pesticides to establish some degree of Medfly control, at a cost of up to \$60 an acre.

The plan is to eradicate the insect from the country within four years. In the first 18 months of the project, facilities capable of mass-rearing one billion Medfly a week will be constructed, methods for the sterilisation, packing and release developed and a pre-eradication field ecology survey conducted. The IAEA and FAO are to supervise a staff training programme.

Egypt is to raise \$8m of the



Egypt is trying to extend its land use into the desert but has to eradicate pests to succeed.

cash cost of the project in addition to contributing local labour as well as specialist skills and services. The IAEA is to make available U.S.\$11.3m, raised on its behalf by various European donors.

Sterile insect release projects against the Medfly supervised by the IAEA have already eradicated the insect from the Italian islands of Procida and Capri, and controlled it over large areas of Central America. A project involving the mass-rearing, sterilisation and release of about 500m flies per week using equipment and facilities, largely designed by the IAEA,

have eradicated the pest entirely in Mexico.

Progress in the development of the sterile insect technique during the past quarter century has surpassed expectations; and aspects of the new technology are now included as major elements in the integrated national pest control programmes of many countries such as the United States, Japan, Taiwan and Mexico.

Business  
NCR cuts computer prices

THE PRICE of NCR's "Decision Mate" professional personal computer has been cut by about 23 per cent in the UK after demand which the company says has "exceeded all expectations."

John Olford, the UK product manager, says savings made possible through bigger discounts on bulk buying of components are being passed on to customers. The price of the 8-bit computer with built-in Winchester hard disc and 10m characters of storage has been cut from £4,235 to £3,290. The equivalent dual-processor 8-bit/16-bit version comes down from £4,615 to £3,640. There are bargains in memory upgrades, moving from 64K to 256K now costs £385.

There are also colour graphics packages, new memory and disc storage modules and a disc utility which enables the Decision Mate to exchange data with other leading microcomputers.

The machine is already compatible with the IBM Personal Computer; the new disc utility converts data on floppy discs from computers such as Digital Equipment, Osborne, TTI, Kaypro and Triumph Adler.

So executives can send data on disc to each other through the post, and salesmen using portable computers such as the Osborne 1 can process their data on a head office Decision Mate. More on 01-723 7070.

Telecoms  
Voiceband modem

A FREQUENCY shift keying single chip voiceband modem is now available from Dage Eurosem. The company says that the chip has its own transmitter, receiver and interface control and timing logic. Designated the AM7910, it uses digital signal processing techniques. More information is available from the company on 0296 32881.

Lovell  
for Construction

## Magnetism

## Research in low cost magnets

RESEARCH INTO neodymium-iron magnetic material has been extended in recent times at General Motors in the U.S. Experts believe it could lead to a new generation of permanent magnet motors that would be more efficient and less expensive.

The least expensive magnets currently available are made from ferrite and cost about \$4/lb. But ferrite magnets have a limited energy output and can be used economically only in small machines. More powerful magnets, using samarium cobalt alloy, cost in the region of \$50 to \$100/lb.

It is likely that the new neodymium-iron weighing combine the best features of ferrite and samarium cobalt—at a cost closer to that of ferrite.

But the Japanese are hot on the trail, including Sumitomo and Hitachi. The latter believes that if it takes a 250-lb ferrite magnet to generate 25 hp, the same motor could be built using neodymium-iron weighing only 35lb.

## Materials

## Coating detector

SHEEN INSTRUMENTS are now offering a kit which can identify poor powder coatings. It consists of a portable battery-operated electrometer, a high-voltage probe, a Faraday cup with ion trap and all interconnecting cables. More details of the diagnostic instrument are available on 01-940 1717.

## BUSINESSES FOR SALE

## Triumph Motor Cycles

The motor cycle and spares manufacturing business of the former co-operative is for sale in one package. This comprises plant and machinery, stock and work in progress, patents, trade marks etc. and all business assets in the ownership of the company apart from freehold property.

The 22 acre freehold site located at Meriden near Coventry is ideally suited for residential redevelopment and is available for sale separately.

A. F. Jones and R. J. Dickens, Joint Liquidators Triumph Motor Cycles (Meriden) Limited c/o Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. 45 Church Street, Birmingham B3 2DL Telephone: 021-233 1666. Telex: 337774 (Contact Alan Adam)

## PEAT MARWICK

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## MACHINE TOOL &amp; ENGINEERING

Long established Company For Sale as going concern or part equity available to suitable partner. TURNOVER £1.4m. Tax Losses available. Contact: K. M. Searle, WALKER SEARLE & CO., 6 High St., Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, B92 0AA.

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01-834 8454 Telex: 8954348

## FOR SALE PRECISION ENGINEERING

The business and assets of A. F. Keys Engineering (Cheltenham) Limited—in Receivables—are for sale. The company operates from freehold premises in Cheltenham of approximately 8,000 sq. ft. The business concentrates mainly in the aircraft and electronics industry. The assets include—2 Moog 3,000 CNC Machines, 4 Moog Hydrapoint NC Machines, 50 p.p.s. apparatus, as well as a healthy order book. Turnover is £150,000. The company is at present continuing to trade with a workforce of five people and a healthy order book.

For further details contact: David C. Lovett, B.A., F.C.A., MICA, Receiver and Manager LITTLE & CO., Chartered Accountants All Saints Chambers, High Gate, Hareford HR4 0AE Tel. No. 0452 56222

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James Maude & Co., 77 Moscow Road, London, W2, Telephone 01-727 6474 Telex: 8953620

## Share Capital for sale of Lancashire farming company

which is still trading. Satisfactory net asset position and further land and property, if required. Available tax losses could save tax amounting to £80,000.

David Bradley LOUIS NICHOLAS & CO. Chartered Accountants 19 Castle Street, Liverpool L2 4SY 051-236 1544

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SOLID FUEL GAS & OIL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES. The Receiver of Smith & Wessington Limited offers for sale as a going concern either in whole or in part the business carried on from the last 18 months and laundry in Central Scotland and any trades although plant hire would be preferable—most depots have considerable space. Currently turning over about £4 million, showing good gross profit—but net losses due to high interest charges. Large assets and very considerable tax allowances approx. £2 million.

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FOR SALE MID-CORNWALL Consisting of Frozen Food Store, Soper's Garage, Vehicles and Equipment. Turnover approximately £200,000 per annum. Write Box G.9073, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

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Company for sale as owners wish to retire. 1982 turnover was £2m, 50% from repeats and recommendations. Current CAA licence. ASTA membership. Write Box G.9084, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

## NURSERY CENTRE WITH LARGE TAX LOSS FOR SALE

Good scope for development and expansion. Excellent reputation. Premises also available for sale if required. Present owners prepared to pay cash. Gloucestershire. Write Box G.9059, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

## RETAIL SHOPS GROUP FOR SALE

With 8 modern leasehold shops specialising in the sale of Groceries, Cakes, China and Glass in Home Counties. Principals only. Write Box G.9071, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

## FOR SALE

Outstanding, long-established and very profitable FOOTWEAR RETAIL BUSINESS. Business with turnover of £620,000. Freehold property, fittings and stock for sale by negotiation. Write Box G.9061, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

## Substantial and profitable BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Interested in joining Public Company in allied field. Assets £1,000,000 plus. Write Box G.9080, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

## FOR SALE RECORD MANUFACTURING &amp; CASSETTE DUPLICATING BUSINESS LONDON

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For further details contact: C. J. C. Derry 50/51 High Holborn London WC1V 6EG Tel: 01-405 8411

## HENRY BUTCHER LEOPOLD FARMER

## MAJOR SCOTTISH MOTORCYCLE BUSINESS FOR SALE MAIN AGENCIES

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## Italy FOR SALE

Average-size corporation, working and processing non-ferrous metals, copper and similar, situated Central Italy. Reduced rate financing and/or tax-allowance possible. For further information please contact: CONSULTA FINANZIARIA S.P.A. Via Brera 3 20120 Milano (Italy) Tel: (02) 345 23 21 Telex: 333179 CONSUL I

## Old Established Family Controlled CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING

M.O.C. Approved. North-West based, specialising in resins and polymers, with contracts and export business. Selling assets, plant and equipment, including stock, for sale by negotiation. Write Box G.9061, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

## CASH &amp; CARRY

Wholesale Fruit & Vegetable Business with turnover of £500,000 per annum. Audited accounts confirm very good net profits. Leasehold premises within 40 miles radius of London. Write Box G.9088, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

## CONTRACT CLEANING COMPANY FOR SALE

Established profitable operation. Write Box G.9086, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

## FOR DISPOSAL CITY PRINTING BUSINESS

Turnover circa £350,000 p.a. Mainly with financial institutions. Good profits. Able management. Or would consider merger with large group. Principals only. Write Box G.9048, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

## THRIVING COMPANY

Thriving company selling market leader in non-chemical winter meat. Plant systems seeks purchaser to help realise full potential of product. Equipment is rented giving strong cash flow. Clients include ICI, Metal Box, Guinness and many other blue chip companies. Would suit company currently calling on industrial and institutional engineers or wishing to enter this fast-growing field of the future. Write Box G.9068, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

## FOR SALE Kitchen Studios Berkshire

Three kitchen studios, offering quality imported kitchens on a turnkey basis. Leasehold premises. Excellent sites. For sale as a going concern with orders and enquiries. Write Box G.9068, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

RICHMOND HIGH STREET SPORTS SHOP Business for sale £105,000 incl. stock. Write Box G.9068, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY



## SECTION III - INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

## FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday September 6 1983

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INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS 30

## TOKYO

All-time high  
but sentiment  
still weak

THE STEEP drop in U.S. M-1 money supply encouraged investors in Tokyo yesterday to select internationally popular blue chip issues, leading the Nikkei-Dow average to a record high, writes Shigeo Nishiwaki of Jiji Press.

The barometer index of 225 select issues climbed 27.44 from last weekend to close at 9,252.21, but volume shrank sharply to 278.18m shares from last Friday's 323.23m.

Market analysts believe that although the index soared to an all-time high, buying sentiment still remained weak, mainly due to uncertainties over the future market trend.

Among selected issues was Matsushita Electric Industrial, which climbed Y80 to Y1,640 on reports that IBM had entrusted Matsushita with the production of its next-generation personal computer. This sent other electrical stocks moving ahead, with Alps Electric gaining Y40 to Y2,710, Pioneer Electronic Y90 to Y3,050 and Hitachi Y13 to Y873.

Telecommunications also surged ahead on expectations of an increase in

exports of telephone equipment, with Iwatsu Electric rising Y100 to Y1,530 and Oki Electric Y15 to Y737. Sankyo Seiki scored a maximum gain of Y200 to Y1,850 on reports that it will enter into a business tie-up with IBM.

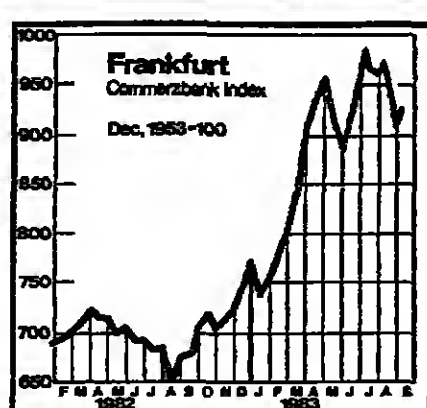
Limited gains were also registered by drug issues such as Yoshitomi Pharmaceutical, up Y200 to Y1,240, and Nikkon Chemical, up Y100 to Y800. Arabian Oil moved ahead Y1,000 to Y7,100 on reports that it would explore oil fields off China.

Conversely, pacesetter speculative issues fell sharply under profit-taking pressure, with Dai Nippon Pharmaceutical slumping Y140 to Y3,290. Advances outnumbered declines 342 to 291, with 172 issues unchanged.

Although the Nikkei-Dow average reached a record level, trading was generally slow as investors remained uncertain about the market's future course.

Bond prices gained ground on buying by financial institutions, with yields declining further. Some city banks continued to sell government bonds, but other city banks and financial institutions related to agriculture and forestry, as well as small and medium-size securities firms, bought these bonds.

Yield on the barometer 7.7 per cent government bonds, with a little over six years remaining to maturity, plunged to 7.835 per cent from last weekend's 7.68 per cent, but bounced back to 7.87 per cent later because of uncertainty over future moves. Yield on 7.5 per cent government bonds, with a little more than nine years remaining to maturity, fell to 7.98 per cent from 8.02 per cent.



## EUROPE

U.S. money  
data cheer  
Frankfurt

SIGNIFICANT gains were recorded in the larger European bourses yesterday, while the smaller markets closed mostly mixed.

Leading shares maintained their early advances in Frankfurt on the back of Wall Street's rise and the drop in U.S. M-1 money supply on Friday. Sentiment was also boosted by static unemployment levels and healthier GNP figures.

Although the new Wella preferred shares will not begin trading for another week, the stock proved so popular at an initial offering price of DM 340 per DM 30 nominal share that sales were halted after the issue was vastly oversubscribed.

Most blue chips gained a couple of D-Marks and the Commerzbank index added 4.7 to 928.3.

Trading slowed in the domestic bond market as dealers prepared for the Bundesbank Council meeting on Thursday and continue to speculate on an increase in the 5 per cent Lombard rate. Bonds saw gains and losses of up to 20 basis points.

An end to recent profit-taking kept prices active in Paris where the electrical and food sectors led the rally. Portfolios, stores, constructions and car stocks were also broadly firmer.

Slow trading in Amsterdam left stocks mixed to higher with most international issues putting in a poor performance. Heineken fell FL 3.50 to FL 124.50 on profit-taking and the market seemed disappointed that the brewer is paying an unchanged interim dividend.

Settlement day for recent stock purchases kept prices steady in Brussels. Holding company shares were mixed, with Bruxelles Lambert up BFr 50 to BFr 2,350. Sofina, however, dropped BFr 65 to BFr 4,930.

Luxembourg trading kept prices generally steady in a disappointing Zurich market. Among the stronger gains, Sandoz rose SwFr 50 to SwFr 6,100, Swiss Aluminium added SwFr 11 to finish at SwFr 826 and Schindler put on SwFr 75 to SwFr 2,525.

Light, unofficial after-bourse trading could not reverse the trend in Milan where shares ended the day lower in thin trading.

## LONDON

Uncertainty  
begins  
to dissipate

A BRIGHTER tone was London's reply to last week's welcome and unexpected contraction in U.S. money growth. The news triggered a late upsurge in U.S. bond values last Friday and yesterday injected much-needed stability into the market after recent uncertainty.

Government stocks outperformed leading shares during official dealings and equities struggled to hold gains of a few pence. Investors were reluctant to commit funds; Wall Street's Labour Day holiday undoubtedly a restricting influence, and the levels of trade in London remained subdued.

In late unofficial dealings, however, leading industrials advanced appreciably and the FT Industrial Ordinary share index, 4.1 higher at 3 pm went sharply better to close 7.4 up on the day at 713.2.

Reasons for the equity strength were hard to find, but it was suggested that UK money growth in August could be a favourable influence. The figures are due today.

The recent surge in Australian mining markets reached boom proportions in London with all the major sectors providing features.

One of the strongest performances by overnight Sydney and Melbourne markets for many weeks combined with persistent talk of a major oil and gas discovery in the Timor Sea, off the coast of the Northern Territory, led to widespread gains.

In diamonds, Ashton Mining raced ahead to close 14p higher at 114p on vague rumours of further diamond discoveries in Western Australia. Details, Page 23; Share Information Service Pages 24-25.

## WALL STREET

Thriffs rush  
to take the  
public way

LAST WEEK saw completion of the conversion of Cartaret Savings and Loan Association from a Federal mutual to a Federal stock association, a step which has been taken by nearly 1,000 of the 3,200 or so U.S. savings and loan associations or thriffs as they are known locally, writes Terry Byland in New York.

Cartaret, which rates itself as 23rd largest in the industry, is the 19th thrift to have converted to publicly-quoted ownership this year.

The reason behind this rush to the stock market is no mystery. It has been prompted by the need to rebuild capital bases which were badly battered when the thriffs were caught with loan books filled with low, fixed-interest-rate mortgage loans at a time when U.S. interest rates soared upwards.

The first half of this year proved a highly successful time for public quotations by thriffs. The savings and loan index compiled by A. G. Becker Paribas reached an all-time peak of 292 at the beginning of May (1973=100).

Gains were spectacular among this year's crop of new issues. Shares in Commonwealth Federal soared by 115 per cent between the issue at the beginning of April and the end of June. First Mutual Savings gained 59 per cent over a similar period and Mid-State Federal 36 per cent.

Share prices have levelled off now because investors have recently been taking a less optimistic view of the outlook for interest rates - the thriffs are still regarded as essentially interest-rate-sensitive despite their post-deregulation plans to diversify into other areas of the loan market.

The advance of the thrift share sector as a whole during the first half can be ascribed to the improvement in its interest rate margins as its cost of funds declined. By the end of June, the industry's cost of funds had fallen to 9.29 per cent,

more than 300 basis points down over the twelve months.

But this still leaves open the question of why the new issues have performed so strongly. Becker Paribas suggests that this may be due to a fundamental problem in valuing the newly-quoted shares. The convention has been to price new shares for issue by reference to new net worth - the sum of the net worth of the pre-conversion thrift plus the new dollars paid in for the issued shares. This year's new issues have been priced at around 54 per cent of the new net worth.

The substantial gains in new issues since conversion suggests that investors consider the 54 per cent formula too low in view of the fact that the new share-

holders become owners of the full net worth of the former mutual loan association, whose members only retain their stake as owners if they buy the new issue.

Members are given priority as buyers of the new shares and in the case of Cartaret 39 per cent of the 6.2m shares offered were thus taken up.

The longer-term profit outlook for the thriffs rests in part on their efforts to diversify into commercial and consumer loans, joint ventures and real estate on the larger scale.

They have been accused of "making haste slowly" in these directions and it will be some time before profits from outside the traditional domestic housing area begin to affect the pattern of the industry.

## HONG KONG

A TECHNICALLY weak market in Hong Kong was pushed lower yesterday under the strength of the U.S. dollar compared with the local currency and the taking to heart by investors of recent Chinese political rumblings over the fate of the British colony.

The Hang Seng index buffeted the early pressures but succumbed to close 22.4 lower at 928.14.

The equity losses were, however, moderate. Swire Pacific "A" lost 60 cents to HK\$13.50, Jardine Matheson fell 40 cents to HK\$12.30, as did Cheung Kong at HK\$7.30.

Banks were mixed with Overseas Trust Bank unchanged at HK\$3.57, but Hongkong and Shanghai Banking closed 10 cents lower at HK\$7.60 whereas Hang Seng Bank was trimmed HK\$1.25 to finish at HK\$40.75.

## AUSTRALIA

RESOURCES were the main attraction in Sydney trading yesterday with the Oil and Gas index showing a 23.1 rise to 743.7 on the strength of last week's BHP announcement of an oil discovery off the Northern Territory coast. Gains were also recorded by diamond mining issues.

BHP closed up 20 cents at AS12.35 while Santos gained 24 cents to AS8.40, Vamgas was ahead 26 cents at AS4.38, and Woodside was 6 cents firmer at AS1.42.

The All Ordinaries index rose to a two-year peak of 723.2, a rise of 8.7 on the pre-weekend close, and the All Industrial index was 5.6 ahead at 864.

## SINGAPORE

CAUTION underlined light turnover on the Singapore exchange yesterday as dealers reacted to lower corporate results from members of the Sime Darby Group.

The Straits Times industrial index ended the session 9.07 off at 969.39, having shed 8.41 by mid-session. Banks were mixed, properties and shipyards were generally lower.

Stockbrokers Tong and Ong gauged the market with improved showings anticipated for construction and insurance companies, but lower profits expected from trading houses, retailers, hotels and marine associated operations.

Sime Darby fell two cents to S\$2.28 on the news of a 47 per cent drop in profits.

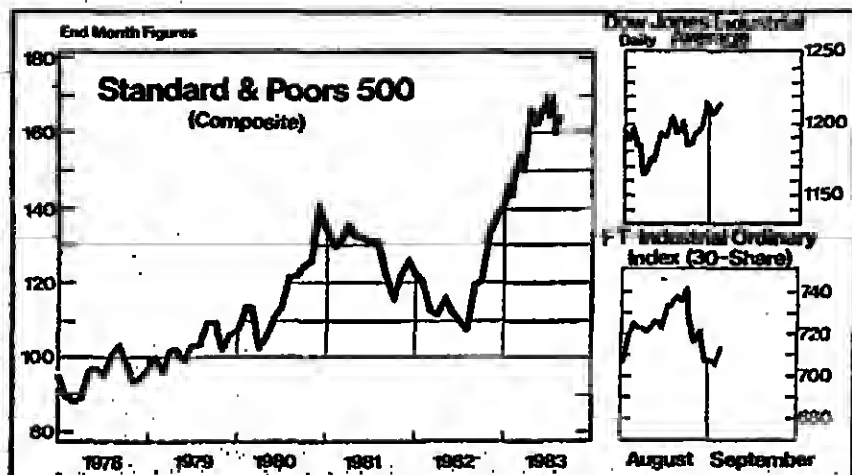
## SOUTH AFRICA

GOLD shares were firm in generally quiet Johannesburg trading yesterday. Heavyweight ERPM added R1 to close at R23 while Buffels gained 50 cents to R72.50, and lightweight Village was particularly popular, adding 22 cents to R1.95.

Diamond share De Beers was unchanged at R10.90 with platinum mixed. Rustenburg gained 10 cents to R14.30.

Mining financials were generally steady and industrial share issues ended mixed with a firmer bias.

## KEY MARKET MONITORS



## STOCK MARKET INDICES

NEW YORK	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
DJ Industrials	closed	1215.45	925.13
DJ Transport	closed	558.94	369.88
DJ Utilities	closed	130.11	117.29
S&P Composite	closed	165.00	122.98

LONDON	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
FT Ind Ord	713.2	705.8	593.3
FT-A All-share	451.51	448.23	358.02
FT-A 500	489.35	486.54	394.76
FT-A Ind	440.24	436.80	363.32
FT Gold mines	682.9	679.8	369.2
FT Govt secs	79.63	79.45	78.76

TOKYO	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Nikkei-Dow	9252.21	9183.11	7175.59
Tokyo SE	682.9	676.31	536.94

AUSTRALIA	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
All Ord	723.2	714.4	487.5
Metals & Mins.	614.2	604.6	405.2

AUSTRIA	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Credit Aktien	55.16	55.21	48.78

BELGIUM	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Belgian SE	132.08	132.49	99.97

CANADA	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Toronto Composite	closed	2512.3	1650.7
Montreal Industrials	closed	450.20	300.05
Combined	closed	422.29	284.87

DENMARK	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Copenhagen SE	190.98	186.61	86.13

FRANCE	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
CAC Gen	133.6	133.1	100.20
Ind. Tendance	143.1	141.6	115.5

WEST GERMANY	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
FAZ-Aktien	312.75	312.12	223.25
Commerzbank	928.3	923.6	677.2

HONG KONG	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Hang Seng	928.14	950.54	1076.28

ITALY	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Banca Comm.	200.24	202.27	186.55

NETHERLANDS	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
ANP-CBS Gen	138.6	138.4	88.0
ANP-CBS Ind	111.6	111.6	69.1

NORWAY	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Oslo SE	206.36	207.1	104.62

SINGAPORE	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Straits Times	969.39	978.48	645.14

SOUTH AFRICA	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Gold	955.9	945.3	585.5
Industrials	939.8	932.4	608.1

SPAIN	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Madrid SE	closed	113.07	106.4

SWEDEN	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
J & P	1528.51	1527.15	632.44

SWITZERLAND	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Swiss Bank Ind	336.9	335.3	246.7

WORLD	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
Capital Int'l	177.7	177.7	134.3

GOLD (per ounce)	Sept 5	Previous	Year ago
London	\$419.375	\$417.625	\$417.625
Frankfurt	\$419.00	\$417.75	\$417.75
Zurich	\$419.50	\$418.50	\$418.50
Paris (Bling)	\$419.66	\$418.66	\$418.66
New York (Sept)	\$416.90	\$415.40	\$415.40

\* Indicate latest pre-close figure

## CURRENCIES

U.S. DOLLAR	Sept 5	Previous	Sept 5	Previous
(London)	1.5	1.4955	—	—
DM	2.684	2.695	4.0275	4.0325
Yen	246	246.75	369	369.25
FFr	8.0775	8.1025	12.11	12.115
SwFr	2.177	2.188	3.265	3.275
Guilifer	3.0010	3.012	4.505	4.505
Lira	1600.25	1607.5	2400	2403.5
BFr	53.59	54.23	81	81.1
CS	1.23075	1.23275	1.8455	1.8435

## INTEREST RATES

Euro-currencies	Sept 5	Prev
(three month offered rate)	—	—
£	9%	9 1/4%
SwFr	4 1/4%	4 1/4%
DM	5 1/4%	5%
FFr	15%	15%

## FT London Interbank fixing

(offered rate)	Sept 5	Prev
3-month U.S.\$	10 1/4%	10%
6-month U.S.\$	10 1/4%	10%
U.S. Fed Funds	n/a	9%
U.S. 3-month CDs	9.6	9.95
U.S. 3-month T-bills	n/a	9.25

## U.S. Treasury Bonds

Sept 5	Prev	Yield
10% 1985	99 1/2	10.98
10% 1990	100 1/2	10.67
11% 1993	100 1/2	11.80
12 2013	101 1/2	11.61

## FINANCIAL FUTURES

CHICAGO	Latest	High	Low	Prev
U.S. Treasury Bonds (CBT)	—	—	—	—
9% 32nds of 100%	69-24	69-27	69-21	69-30

U.S. Treasury Bills (IMM)	—	—	—	—
\$1m points of 100%	90.13	90.15	90.12	90.16

Dec 1983	90.13	90.15	90.12	90.16
Genl Deposit (IMM)	—	—	—	—
\$1m points of 100%	90.07	90.14	90.07	90.12

September	90.04	90.10	90.03	89.96
U.S. Treasury Bonds (IMM)	—	—	—	—
\$50,000 32nds of 100%	101-28	102-01	101-28	101-12

## COMMODITIES

(London)	Sept 5	Prev
Silver (spot fixing)	\$22.10p	\$15.95p
Copper (cash)	\$1071.50	\$1075.50
Coffee (Sept)	\$1706.50	\$1708.00
Oil (spot Arabian light)	\$28.75	\$28.75

## West Germany

Industrial Production Index	Sept 5	Prev
1975=100	—	—
1982	—	—
1983	—	—

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## BANCO TOTA & ACORES

Head Office: Rua Aurea, 88 — 1100 LISBON • PORTUGAL  
Branches in London, New York, Cayman Islands and Macao

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1982** (Thousands of Escudos)

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and deposits with central banks	20,490,256	Demand deposits	50,920,618
Collections	6,377,639	Time deposits	117,134,737
Interbank loans and deposits	35,940,666	Interbank loans and deposits	86,235,743
Gold and sundry currencies	568,255	Sundry creditors	2,040,535
Loans portfolio	168,473,973	Other liabilities	12,732,359
Less provisions for bad debt	4,129,926	Provisions for special risks	1,055,031
Portfolio of securities	15,739,167	Capital	2,250,000
Sundry debtors	4,174,973	Reserves	464,007
Trade investments	667,330	Profit for the year	171,698
Buildings	2,041,102		
Less depreciation	(52,652)		
Equipment	1,193,682		
Less depreciation	(663,232)		
Other fixed assets	2,935,973		
Less depreciation	(773,319)		
Other assets	19,637,849		
<b>Total</b>	<b>273,024,699</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>273,024,699</b>

### CONTRA — ACCOUNTS

Sale custody items	44,334,741
Collections for customers	10,215,402
Collateral held as security	39,163,050
Guarantees and assets given	25,663,220
Letters of credit opened	4,558,919
Acceptances issued	3,582
Pledged collateral	322,620
Forward purchases	329,558
Forward sales	304,518
Other contra and memorandum accounts	13,924,198

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1982**

Interest payable	32,078,373	Interest receivable	33,884,251
Personnel expenses	3,440,730	Commissions receivable	111,019
Depreciation	1,008,909	Other receivables	2,080,449
Other banking expenses	279,892	Other banking profits	—
Sundry taxation	48,035	Income from securities	2,396,590
Depreciation	295,910	Other incomes	163,497
Provisions	2,013,025		
Profits for appropriation	150,861		
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,735,725</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>39,735,725</b>

**APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT**

Losses relating to previous years .....	547,897	Profits for appropriation .....	150,861
Extraordinary losses .....	15,634	Profits relating to previous years .....	128,695
Profit for the year .....	171,698	Extraordinary gains .....	1,394
		Provisions no longer required .....	454,269
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>735,219</b>	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>735,219</b>

\* This figure includes 649,000 thousand Escudos relating to social security payments (the BT&A is the only Portuguese Credit Institution integrated into the National Social Security Scheme).

**CHIEF ACCOUNTANT AND CONTROLLER**

**CHAIRMAN**

Estanislau Miguel da Conceição Silva

**Álvaro João Pinto Correia**

The Annual Report, the Balance Sheet and the Statements of Accounts have been approved by His Excellency The Minister of State and of Finance and Planning as at 31st May 1983

**\$ 28,160,000**

**Serono**

**SERONO PHARMACEUTICAL PARTNERS**

(A Massachusetts limited partnership)

## Limited Partnership Interests

A limited partnership formed to develop and secure regulatory approval with respect to six pharmaceutical projects. The General Partner is Braintree Research Associates, Inc., a subsidiary of Sero Laboratories, Inc., a member of the Ares-Sero Group.

The limited partnership interests were privately placed by the undersigned.

**Drexel Burnham Lambert**  
INCORPORATED  
NEW YORK NEW YORK

**Rotan Mosle Inc.**  
HOUSTON TEXAS

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

CANADA				DENMARK				NETHERLANDS				AUSTRALIA				JAPAN (continued)			
Stock	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Price	Stock	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Price	Stock	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Price	Stock	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Price	Stock	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Price
AMCA Int'l.	22	23		Aarburg Oils	464			ACF Holdings	164	-0.8		ANZ Group	1.30	-0.05		Nomura	1.15		
Anglo.	22	23		Adams-Donk	268			AIG	155.5	-1.0		Argo Aust.	1.30	-0.08		Kumho	1.10	-1	
Canaco Eagle	22	23		Batavia Skandin	268	+1		Alcan.	164.5	-0.5		Amcol Pet.	1.95	-0.05		Kumho	1.10	-1	
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canadebank	273.6	-2.4		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
Alcora Energy	19	19		Canaco Bank	268	-0.5		Alcan.	309	-3		Aspen	1.30	-0.05		Kyoto Cement	7.20		
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## NEW YORK

1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
◆ Industrials 1215.45	1208.91	1218.16	1196.04	1244.11	1192.07	1248.38	1027.94	1248.38	41.22		
Transp. 70.73	70.89	70.88	70.76	70.78	70.70	70.75	69.24	70.75			
H'me Bnds. 70.73	70.89	70.88	70.76	70.78	70.70	70.75	69.24	70.75			
Compa's 558.34	553.32	548.58	538.21	532.85	529.50	535.81	484.24	535.81	12.39		
Utilities.....	130.11	129.67	129.55	130.80	129.50	131.97	127.85	131.97	10.6		
Trading/Inv	0007	59,300	76,122	80,800	82,878	83,888	61,866				
◆ Day's High 1221.94	1221.34	120	1204.17	1187.36							
Indust'l dir. yield %		4.56	4.65	4.68	4.65	4.45					
STANDARD AND POORS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Indust'l's 186.22	186.42	185.58	128.42	183.25	182.88	183.25	154.95	183.25	8.82		
Compa's 100.00	124.23	124.40	122.58	122.15	122.14	122.15	117.28	122.15	4.49		
Indust'l dir. yield %		3.98	4.03	3.95	3.95	3.45					
Indust'l P/E ratio		14.92	14.02	14.59	14.59	8.40					
Long Gov. Bond yield		11.66	11.40	11.43	11.43	11.02					
RUSSELL 2000											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	21	21	20	20	20	20	19	19	19	19	
59.28	94.83	94.89	83.60	90.01	90.98	90.98	84.16	90.98	28.8		
MONTREAL											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
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TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
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TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
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TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
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TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
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1983										Since Crim'11	
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TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
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TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
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TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
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Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
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1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38	472.28	422.28	472.28	32.18		
Combined	422.76	416.82	414.76	468.12	462.28	458.12	412.28	458.12	48.84		
TORONTO Composite	2518.25	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	2488.2	14.1		
NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS											
1983										Since Crim'11	
Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Aug. 31	Aug. 30	Aug. 29	Aug. 28	Aug. 27	High	Low	High	Low	
Sept. 1	480.72	444.24	441.81	481.82	478.38						

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## COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

## Higher U.S. export credit funding requested

By Nancy Dunne in Washington

WHILE the payment-in-kind (PIK) programme is expected to push 1983 net farm income to one of the highest on record, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reportedly seeking to expand its funding of agricultural export credit.

Lower production expenses and Government payments to farmers of cash and commodities is expected to give the net farm income to average \$28-\$30bn (\$17.4-20bn).

The increase would be up from 1982's \$23.9bn and could possibly top the \$28.9bn recorded in 1974. The highest farm income on record is the \$31bn achieved in 1978.

However, USDA is still determined to boost sagging agricultural exports. Currently, the Department has \$3bn budgeted for export credit guarantees for fiscal 1984 plus an additional \$175m to be used for export promotion programmes such as blended credit. However, USDA is reportedly seeking to boost the total credit package to between \$8-\$9bn for the fiscal year.

The Department is considering activating two programmes which were authorised in 1978 but have received little or no funding. One provides direct export credit for use in the foreign sales of U.S. livestock. The other stipulates that the proceeds from the sales of commodities could be used to develop the importing country's infrastructure. Both programmes provide credit for three to 10 years.

Reportedly, there is some disagreement between Government agencies about whether or not credit should be granted to those countries already deeply in debt. The USDA request for more credit funding is expected to be considered during next week.

## LME copper stocks return to peak levels

By John Edwards, Commodities Editor

COPPER STOCKS held in the London Metal Exchange (LME) are now back to the four-year peak reached 12 weeks ago.

Another increase in stocks last week of 15,025 tonnes, the fifth consecutive rise, took total holdings up to 345,450 tonnes.

This means that the sharp drop of some 100,000 tonnes in stocks from mid-June to mid-July as a result of Chinese buying has been totally recovered by an inflow of stocks during recent weeks.

Stocks have also been rising in New York, putting heavy pressure on prices. Yesterday, in quiet trading conditions, with the New York market closed for the Labor Day holiday, higher grade cash copper

ended at \$4 to \$10.715 a tonne. Traditionally, the Labor Day holiday often marks a turning point in the market with industry in the western world returning to work after the summer holidays.

At the moment, the outlook for copper remains gloomy with stocks continuing to rise and demand remaining apparently sluggish in spite of the recovery in U.S. industry that has given such a boost to aluminium and zinc prices.

Aluminium stocks in LME warehouses fell again last week by 1,250 tonnes reducing the total holdings to 259,575 tonnes, compared with a peak of 275,025 tonnes.

Cash aluminium closed only

\$2 up at \$1,114 a tonne but is now \$43 higher on cash copper. Zinc stocks also declined marginally, by 150 tonnes from the peak of 107,025 tonnes reached the previous week—the highest level since November 1976. During the last zinc price "boom" in 1973-74, when cash zinc reached a high of \$910, warehouse stocks fell to 3,250 tonnes at one stage—a far different scenario from the present situation of high stocks and high prices.

Lead stocks rose by 1,700 to a record 206,525 tonnes, but nickel fell by 54 tonnes from the previous week's record total of 23,473 tonnes. Tin stocks declined by 250 to 43,950 tonnes, while LME silver bid-

ings were unchanged at 36,500,000 ounces.

Reuter reported from Kuala Lumpur that Malaysian customs officials seized 4.5 tonnes of tin concentrates valued at 1.4m ringgit (\$39,772) and arrested 26 people for smuggling in the first half of this year. Deputy Finance Minister Ling Ling Sik said.

Most of the seizures and arrests were made at a customs checkpoint in Johore, which borders Singapore.

A recent International Tin Council (ITC) report estimated about 6,000 tonnes of tin concentrates, probably from Malaysia, were smuggled to Singapore for smelting and re-export in the 12 months since

## Disease could put oyster industry on the rocks

By Barbara Dalzell

THERE'S BEEN nothing like it since Lewis Carroll's oysters but their distressing encounter with the walrus species.

Britain's oysters are now under attack from a smaller and less amusing enemy—bonamia, a parasite which attacks the blood cells.

Britain had its first bonamia outbreak last October in the River Fal in Cornwall. From there, it spread to the River Hord, to the River Mersey and to Walton on the Naze.

French and Dutch experience of the disease indicates that it is highly infectious and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has responded by prohibiting the movement of oysters from specific beds.

Oyster farmers who find they have infected beds are being advised to destroy them. The Ministry is reluctant to issue guidelines on how long it takes to clear an infected bed.

The disease is difficult to identify and isolate. The parasite operates rather like a

malarial parasite. It is not yet clear whether the disease itself is a killer—to oysters, not to oyster-eaters who remain unharmed—or whether it is fatal only in conjunction with stressful circumstances such as temperature changes or being moved to another bed.

The Shellfish Association of Great Britain remains guardedly optimistic about prospects for this year's harvest.

However, bonamia has a prolonged incubation period and more outbreaks could be reported by October or November, triggering shortages.

Meanwhile, for those who feel that oyster-eating is a vital gastronomic duty in months with an "R," there is good news and bad news.

Oysters are still available and fish restaurants report no difficulties in getting supplies.

Prices are higher, however. Sheekey's in London are selling Colchester at \$4.25 a half-dozen—up from \$3.95 last year.

## Reduced supply pushes up tea prices

By Don Commodities Staff

SHARPLY REDUCED supply pushed tea prices to the highest levels since the 1976-1977 boom at the London tea auction yesterday.

The average price for quality tea rose 5p to 160p per kilo. Medium quality was up 6p at 148p a kilo and low quality at 136p. The highest price recorded was 180p a kilo for a container of broken orange Pekoe fannings.

The high prices at this week's auction reflect tight supply rather than strong demand.

Growing demand in producing countries, particularly India, the world's biggest producer, has reduced stocks heavily, with the result that a smaller amount of early season supplies is available for export.

Only 14,636 packages were available at the London auction yesterday compared with a recent average of about 50,000 packages.

## Malaysia expects palm oil and rubber earnings to rise

By Wong Sulong in Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA EXPECTS to earn an extra 1,420m ringgit (\$402m) from palm oil exports this year because of firmer commodity prices.

In a major commodity review, Datuk Paul Leong, the Malaysian Minister of Primary Industries, said the Government expects a 10 per cent rise in average 250 Malaysian cents a kilo this year, compared with 201 cents last year.

Exports are expected at 1.51m tonnes this year compared with 1.37m tonnes last year. Rubber export revenue is expected at 3,770m ringgit, a billion more than last year.

For palm oil, the average price this year is now expected to be around 1,005 ringgit per tonne against 829 ringgit last year, while exports are projected with 2.8m tonnes in 1983.

Explaining why rubber and palm oil exports are expected to go up this year when output is lower than that of last year's,

Datuk Leong said the higher prices encouraged producers to release stocks they withheld last year.

The Minister attributed the strong prices to the general recovery in the industrialised countries and bad weather which affected edible oil crops in the U.S., Brazil, Africa and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, a senior Malaysian official said the authorities might consider reducing the contract sizes for rubber futures on the new Kuala Lumpur market to 10 or 15 tonnes per lot.

He was commenting on complaints by traders on the Kuala Lumpur Commodities Exchange that the current 25-tonne lot was too big and that speculators preferred to trade in other rubber centres.

The 25-tonne lot for rubber, introduced on the exchange last week, is the same as that for palm oil, but in value terms it is two and a half times more expensive.

## Jute talks aim to boost production

CALCUTTA—Major jute producers started a five-day conference aimed at securing national co-operation to boost production. Reuter reports.

Delegates from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand and some international agencies, including the Asian Development Bank, will discuss exchanges of plant, materials and technology. They will also consider pest and disease eradication measures.

A FARMER-FINANCED programme to eradicate a killer pig disease, from British herds, is virtually complete, according to the Pig Disease Eradication Fund.

More than 325,000 pigs from 389 breeders infected with African swine fever, a herpes virus which kills piglets, have been slaughtered since the programme began early this year. Follow-up to "latent or lingering infection" exists in the country is now being considered.

THE AMERICAN commodity markets were closed yesterday because of the Labor Day holiday.

THE EEC beef and veal regime is explained in detail in a 44-page booklet published yesterday by the EEC Livestock Commission. Price £3.

CHINA REPORTS discovery of a cobalt deposit on Hainan Island. The Standard News Agency says the deposit is the largest yet discovered in the area and has a high mineral content.

UK CRUSHING of oilseeds and nuts fell to 323,100 tonnes in the second quarter of 1983 from 455,600 tonnes in the equivalent period last year.

A SOUTH AFRICAN maize producers' committee has recommended introduction of domestic delivery quotas. It also recommended that the Government should take responsibility for the maize industry's debts and that payments for exported maize should be related to world prices. The Government is to consider the committee's findings.

AGRICULTURE Secretary John Block said he doubted whether the newly signed five-year agreement to sell grain to the Soviet Union would be affected by the Korean airliner crash controversy.

INDONESIA'S rice needs for this year are projected at 1.5m tonnes, down 500,000 tonnes from June estimates. The revised figure reflects smaller-than-expected 1982 drought losses and the Government's wish to cut foreign exchange spending.

CHINA is experimenting with fertiliser containing rare earths to boost wheat, rice, peanut and soyabean output by between 5-10 per cent. Such fertiliser, which can also enable rubber trees to produce more latex, and increases sugar content of cane, beet and watermelons, is now being used on 60,000 hectares. China did not say which rare earths are used in the fertiliser.

INDIA'S TOTAL cotton exports rose to 800,000 bales (each of 170 kilos) worth Rs 1.8bn in the 1982-83 season from 775,000 bales in the previous period. An Iranian shortfall in the U.S. and Soviet Union cotton crops created a favourable export market for India last year, and levels are likely to be maintained in the current season.

JAPAN'S synthetic rubber output rose 6 per cent to 485,045 tonnes in January to June compared with the same period in 1982. An Iranian order for tyres last March was partly responsible for the increase in output. Higher natural rubber prices also increased demand for synthetic rubber.

AUSTRALIAN Wheat Forecasts raised its forecast of the 1983-84 crop to 17.4m tonnes from 16.7m tonnes in the previous month's report. The estimate goes up from 12.9m hectares to 13.05m hectares.

INDIA is to buy 500,000 tonnes of wheat from Canada and says it will import more if necessary. The Canadian purchase will add to the 8.2m tonnes of wheat reserves used to keep prices down. This is the third consecutive year that India has imported wheat. It was self-reliant in wheat production briefly in 1970.

WEST GERMAN sugar beet tests show average beet weight of 554 grammes, compared with 771 grammes at the same time last year.

INDONESIA intends to continue its ban on coconut oil exports until domestic vegetable oil prices are more realistic. Agriculture Ministry officials say no controls are planned for palm oil.

THE FRENCH sugar market intervention board has raised its estimate of this year's European Community white sugar output to 10.8m tonnes from the 10.6m forecast a month ago. 1982-83 production was 13.9m tonnes.

SRI LANKA will buy 50,000 tonnes of Canadian wheat from Romak SA of Geneva at \$180.24 (£107.54) per tonne FOB.

## Leading futures exchanges optimistic

THREE were lots of happy faces at the Swiss Commodity Association annual summit at Burgstock last week. It was not just the beautiful surroundings high above Lake Lucerne.

Among the 250 or so delegates, representatives from the world's 12 leading futures exchanges were able to report a continued expansion in trading activity, several successful new contracts and increased turnover in many established markets as a result of rising prices and disappearing surpluses.

A special session on "new products" revealed that the drive for continued expansion goes on, especially in the U.S. The New York Coffer, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange reported that it had plans for new contracts for totally different futures markets—housing starts, automobile sales, consumer price index and corporate earnings index.

Many delegates understood how these would work, but they recalled having the same reaction to stock index futures—now the fastest growing contracts in the U.S.

The Chicago Board of Trade, based in the flow of booming grain markets, is hoping to win its court battle soon to introduce a Dow Jones type stock index and also launch soyabean options next year. But its chairman, Mr. Tom Cunningham, admitted the crude oil contract had been "slow to get going."

Its deadly rival, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, quoted a prediction that turnover in its highly successful Standard and Poors index could rise to 1m contracts a day turnover in a few years when the institutions really started to use the market.

Although the Merc has no room for new markets until it moves into new premises in

late November, next year could see contracts for currency options (probably Deutsche marks) and sub-indexes for energy and high technology company shares.

A warning note that the futures industry might suffer from launching too many new contracts, too fast, was sounded by Dr. Clayton Yeutter, president of the exchange. He noted that nine out of 10 new contracts were doomed to failure.

London exchanges were far less expansionist. The International Petroleum Exchange confirmed plans for a crude oil market last year, followed by a gasoline futures contract in the exchange's new three-ring premises.

But its chairman, Mr. Robin Woodhead, felt only one winner would emerge from the current battle between Chicago and New York exchanges to launch new energy contracts.

Mr. Philip Smith, chairman of the London Metal Exchange, said that were studies aimed at the higher grade copper contract, as a result of wirebars becoming obsolete. Proposals to reduce the silver contract lots from its present 100 to 10 tonnes were also being considered.

Dr. Yeutter claimed that grain importing countries could have saved millions of dollars by using the futures markets earlier this year when prices were at rock bottom levels. He said a World Bank study group was investigating the use of futures markets by developing countries.

Meanwhile, the Swiss Commodity Association itself wants to expand its influence with the launch of an International Futures and Commodity Institute in Geneva.

Mr. F. Fris, chairman of the association, said the principal objective of the institute will be to provide training.

With membership continuing to expand, the Swiss Commodity Association already carved itself an important role in providing an annual forum in Europe for the futures industry to get together and discuss its problems.

The only shadow over the proceedings was concern about the current dispute between the U.S. and Swiss governments over the More Rich case.

Mr. Philip Johnson, former chairman of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, felt it was all a bit of a misunderstanding. But he was pessimistic about the problems of reconciling the varied approaches in different countries towards futures trading.

## PRICE CHANGES

In tonnes unless stated otherwise	Sept. 5 1983	+ or -	Month ago
<b>Metals</b>			
Aluminium	\$1,050	+350	
Free Mkt.	\$1,050/65		\$1,050/65
Copper	\$1,071.5	+4	\$1,071.5
Cash grade	\$1,052.25	-3.5	\$1,052.25
3 months	\$1,052.25	-3.5	\$1,052.25
6 months	\$1,052.25	-3.5	\$1,052.25
Gold Troy	\$412.375	+1.75	\$412.375
Lead	\$207.5	-0.25	\$207.5
3 months	\$207.5	-0.25	\$207.5
6 months	\$207.5	-0.25	\$207.5
Nickel	\$246.54	+0.04	\$246.54
Free Mkt.	\$246.54	+0.04	\$246.54
Platinum	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
Palladium	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
Silver	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
3 months	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
6 months	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
Tin	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
3 months	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
6 months	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
Zinc	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
3 months	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
6 months	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
Wool	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
3 months	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25
6 months	\$1,150.25	+1.75	\$1,150.25

## LONDON OIL SPOT PRICES

CRUDE OIL—FOB (per barrel)	Latest	Change
Arabian Light	\$27.75	-0.07
Arabian Heavy	\$27.50	-0.07
North Sea (Brent)	\$30.00	-0.02
African/Bonny/Light	\$30.00	-0.02
PRODUCTS—North West Europe		
Gas oil	\$27.75	+0.07
Gas oil	\$27.75	+0.07
Heavy fuel oil	\$27.75	+0.07

## GOLD MARKETS

Gold rose \$11 an ounce from Friday's close in the London bullion market yesterday to \$412.375 at \$412.375. The metal opened at \$420.421 and traded between a high of \$420.421 and a low of \$412.375. The former traded at a softening in U.S. interest rates following better than expected U.S. money supply figures. Trading was restricted by the closure of U.S. centres for the holiday.

In Frankfurt the 12 1/2 kilo bar was fixed at DM 36,250 per kilo (\$420.39 per ounce) against DM 36,470 (\$418.99) and closed at \$418.419 (\$417.418). In Paris the 12 1/2 kilo bar was fixed at FF 108,900 per kilo (\$418.66 per ounce) in the afternoon compared with FF 109,000 (\$418.97) in the morning and FF 109,500 (\$418.66) on Friday

## GAS OIL FUTURES

Trading started at unchanged levels, moved lower and ended with a narrow range throughout the day. The New York holiday kept activity at a very low level. Futures Man.

Turnover: 981 (1,272) lots of 100 tonnes.

Month Year-to-date | + or - | Business |

Sept. 1983 254.50 | -0.75 | 50,425 |

Oct. 1983 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Nov. 1983 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Dec. 1983 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Jan. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Feb. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Mar. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Apr. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

May 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

June 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

July 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Aug. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Sept. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Oct. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Nov. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Dec. 1984 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Jan. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Feb. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Mar. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Apr. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

May 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

June 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

July 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Aug. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Sept. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Oct. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Nov. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Dec. 1985 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Jan. 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Feb. 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Mar. 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Apr. 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

May 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

June 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

July 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Aug. 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Sept. 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |

Oct. 1986 257.50 | -0.25 | 50,425 |



## CURRENCIES, MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## Dollar eases on money supply figures

The dollar was weaker in currency markets yesterday following an unexpected fall in U.S. money supply figures on Friday. Selling was prevalent in the dollar market as the dollar fell to a low of 1.4540 against the Swiss franc, a low not reached since the dollar's fall from 1.5000 in 1980. The dollar also fell to a low of 1.4540 against the Swiss franc, a low not reached since the dollar's fall from 1.5000 in 1980. The dollar also fell to a low of 1.4540 against the Swiss franc, a low not reached since the dollar's fall from 1.5000 in 1980.

Higher U.S. interest rates, as a result of the U.S. budget deficit and money supply growth. The dollar closed some way towards its best level of the day at DM 2.6840 against the German mark, a low not reached since the dollar's fall from 1.5000 in 1980. The dollar also fell to a low of 1.4540 against the Swiss franc, a low not reached since the dollar's fall from 1.5000 in 1980.

of England in international currency markets. The pound fell to a low of 1.4540 against the Swiss franc, a low not reached since the dollar's fall from 1.5000 in 1980. The dollar also fell to a low of 1.4540 against the Swiss franc, a low not reached since the dollar's fall from 1.5000 in 1980.

DMARK — Trading range against the dollar in 1983 is 2.215 to 2.332. August average 2.2736. Trade weighted index 125.5 against 123.2 six months ago. Until the recent slowdown in U.S. money supply growth, the dollar was at its highest level for nearly 10 years against the D-mark, reflecting the large differential between U.S. and German interest rates. However, the D-mark showed a small overall improvement yesterday although it failed to hold its best levels. The latest economic indicators pointed towards only slow economic growth and this was seen as hampering any attempts by the Bundesbank to help the D-mark against the dollar.

STERLING — Trading range against the dollar in 1983 is 1.4540 to 1.5000. August average 1.4736. Trade weighted index 125.5 against 123.2 six months ago. The pound has been steady to firm recently, despite the volatility of the dollar. The absence of the Bank of England in international currency markets.

EURODOLLARS — Firmly posted useful gains, helped by a stronger tone to the U.S. bond market on Friday. For December delivery the price opened at 103.28 up from 103.11 and progressed to a best level of 104.03 before closing at 103.28. Gains in the sterling deposit contract mirrored a small decline in the cash market with short-term interest rates finishing the day on a very soft note following comfortable conditions in the money market. Period rates were slightly easier but once again there appeared to be little firm commitment in view of current uncertainty over U.S. interest rates.

In the table below, the Chicago Financial Futures Exchange prices are for September 2. Prices quoted for London are as at September 5.

## EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

Country	ECU	Current rate	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	48.8000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	71.8000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	2.5700	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	1.5000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	3.9000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	216.0000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	180.0000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	1.5000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	8.5000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	1.6000	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## CURRENCY RATES

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## LONDON

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## CHICAGO

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## OTHER CURRENCIES

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## MONEY MARKETS

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## UK money rates easier

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## LONDON MONEY RATES

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## MONEY RATES

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## NETHERLANDS

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## \$ CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## LONG TERM EURO \$

Country	Bank of England	% change from 1982	% change from 1981	Divergence limit %
Belgium	44.3008	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
France	65.4894	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Germany	2.3616	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Italy	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Netherlands	3.6036	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Portugal	200.4836	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Spain	166.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Greece	1.3636	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
Ireland	7.8889	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447
UK	1.4926	+1.21	+1.22	+1.5447

## FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING

Pound Sterling	1
U.S. Dollar	0.667
Deutschmark	2.348
Japanese Yen 1,000	2.712
French Franc 10	9.828
Swiss Franc	2.506
Dutch Guilder	0.322
Italian Lira 1,000	0.417
Scandinavian Dollar	0.542
Belgian Franc 100.	1.285

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**MONEY MARKETS**

**UK money**



**ET INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE**

With the unexpected \$1.50 drop in the supply reported over the weekend, bond prices were generally higher in Europe yesterday as fears of tighter money abated. Credit Suisse First Boston was quoting the warrants to buy at a discount of 7½ per cent compared with the warrants to sell which traded at a discount of 1½ per cent.

German banks meanwhile set a DM 700m calendar for new issues in September. Over the next month there will be only four issues, starting with a DM 200m bond for the European Investment Bank on Thursday. Last month the banks issued DM 900m worth of bonds in a sluggish market dominated by fears of higher U.S. interest rates.

But Italian borrowers are also thought to have been holding in the wake of the Banco Ambrosiano bankruptcy last year.

August, 1983

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The Government Commissioner  
FLAVIO DE LUCA

**An international bank requires a Middle East Marketing and Credit Officer who will be expected to develop and expand the bank's Middle East business across a broad range of banking products. The candidate must have a minimum of five years banking experience gained through working with a recognised bank in the Middle East. Broad based credit and marketing experience is required as well as some familiarity with foreign exchange activity and international banking products suitable for individual clients. Education to degree level and fluent spoken Arabic are essential. Age 30-40. Position is based in London but requires extensive travel. Salary negotiable.**

## LEGAL NOTICES



## FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

## Switzerland

Great adaptability and the pursuit of innovation have enabled the Swiss to pass almost unscarred through world recession; but a debate is beginning about the country's proper position in the world and where it should go.

## Coping better than most neighbours

By W. L. Luetkens

A BLOODLESS battle is going on in the streets of Zurich and some other big Swiss towns. Gangs of cleaners scrub, rub and wash off the graffiti scrawled and sprayed up by a rebellious minority of Swiss youth.

At present the cleaners are winning: authority and traditional Swiss cleanliness is on top. But for one unruly demonstration in Zurich in early June, Switzerland is quiet and orderly. Its wealth is obvious for all to see.

Shoddy goods, if you see them at all in the shops, are generally souvenirs for tourists. Yet, under the glossy surface some of the strains of contemporary life are palpable. The explosion of youth riots of a few years ago has subsided, but its causes have not been removed. The anti-nuclear movement is vocal and noisy upset the country's so far successful energy policy.

The economy, whose performance is the envy of the world, is under constant pressure to adapt to change. The recession has brought a colder climate to industrial relations. It has also revived the small splinter parties on the right that cash in on resentments against the large foreign population.

Yet, all of that is relative only. All the evidence at present is that the Swiss can

cope, and cope better than most of their neighbours and competitors.

Like the rest of the world, Switzerland has been hurt by recession: gross national product contracted by 1.7 per cent in 1982, is expected to stagnate this year, and to grow by 2 per cent in 1984. But the impact has been less harsh than elsewhere. Unemployment remains almost negligible.

## Raw nerve

The trade unions have played their part by maintaining the proverbial moderation of their demands. But the reluctance of the employers in the important engineering industry to raise pay at least in line with consumer prices has touched a raw nerve.

The engineering industry has had a no-strike agreement since 1957, which has been renewed for five years at a time. This year talks for a renewal almost broke down. The unions only reluctantly agreed because, under another part of the deal, workers will not receive full compensation for loss of income as the 40-hour week comes in. Given the smallness of its home market and its high wage costs, the engineering industry is worried about retaining international competitiveness.

It did well to raise exports from 48 per cent of deliveries

in 1978 to 60 per cent in 1980, but at heavy cost to profitability. Orders this year have flagged badly.

This particular industry, like most others in Switzerland, depends for survival on flexibility and continued innovation and keeping ahead of the competition is proving hard work. Dr M. Erb, director of the Association of Swiss Mechanical Engineers, says frankly that "we no longer are alone on top of the technology pyramid." But this, too, must be seen in context.

The Swiss are heavy spenders on research and development as shown in the article on the economy. But they may be better at perfecting existing technologies rather than creating new ones.

Such spending is an impressive demonstration of confidence in the future but, among the more thoughtful Swiss, the question is at times asked whether the country knows where it is going and whether it is going in the right direction.

A few years ago it was all the fashion to say that Swiss industry had to expand abroad because Switzerland had neither the necessary space nor the labour. Some Swiss concerns that followed this advice have burnt their fingers.

The question has therefore been raised whether growth and turnover really are to be pursued as a chief objective or whether it is best to rely on the traditional Swiss assets of flexibility and workmanship.

The case of the textile industry shows what is meant. A few years ago it was thought to be moribund except for luxury products such as silk but, when world recession reduced demand for the most expensive products, Swiss textile manufac-

turers found the fair necessary to do well with high-quality and high-fashion cotton.

Doubts about growth are not a new motif in Switzerland. They are the product not only of prosperity but also of a continued awareness that the country has its roots among the peasantry and craftsmen. More immediate limits to growth exist because Swiss industry, including the service industries, could not have got where it has without migrant labour.

In 1974 the number of foreign residents reached a peak of 1.1m in a population of 6.4m. That proved to be more than the average Swiss was prepared to put up with.

Strung into action both by popular sentiment and by the recession of the mid-1970s, the Government became less liberal with work permits. Even so 824,000 foreign residents remained in Switzerland at the end of 1982.

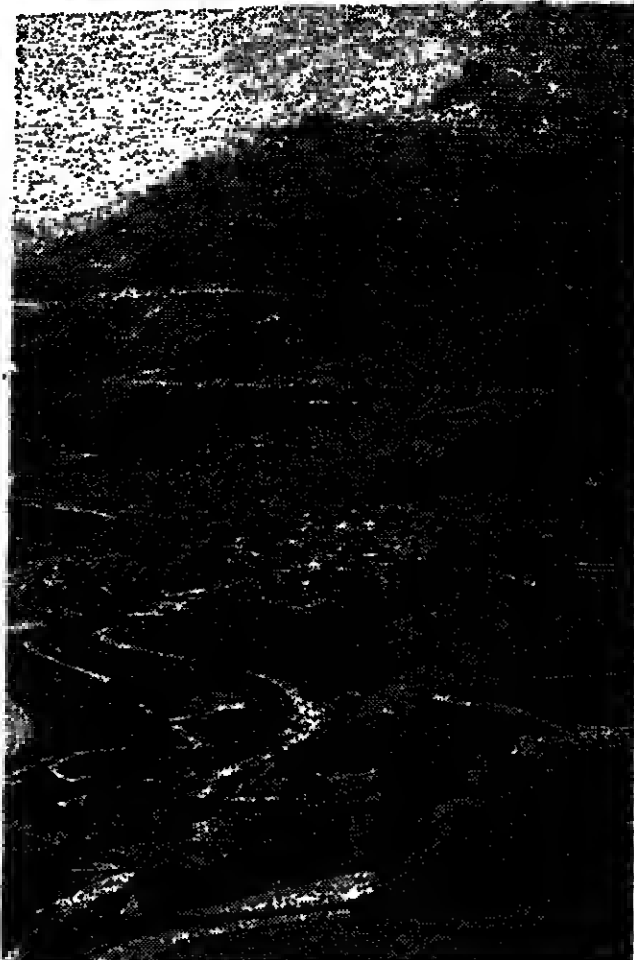
## Limited successes

In a climate of threatening unemployment (however tiny by the standards of other countries), their presence has given a new lease on life to Nationale Aktion, a party that had some limited successes in the federal and cantonal elections of the 1970s.

Towards the end of that period the party appeared to have been eclipsed, but this year it, and its equivalent in Geneva, the Vigilants, have again taken a few seats in local elections.

The so-called xenophobes are expected to regain admission to the lower house when a new federal parliament is elected this autumn. They have been without parliamentary representation since 1975.

At the other end of the



A dramatic traffic artery in Switzerland is the St Gotthard tunnel. This is Airole in the Valle Leventina, the southern gate to the tunnel.

political scale, the extreme or "new" Left may make some progress at the expense of the Communists who are in decline.

Within the group of major established political parties there also appears to be a shift away from the Socialists and towards the liberal Free Democratic Party. But (as explained in more detail in the political article of this survey), nobody foresees an end to the so-called democracy of concord (or consensus) by which the four big parties are all represented in the Government.

Some Socialists have at times advocated going into opposition, but the working class rank and file has other ideas. The real reason for staying in is that the electorate has the last word on legislation through the time-honoured system of referendums.

The Socialists may be the largest party, but they know that in the last resort they will always be outvoted by the non-Socialist majority, better stay within the system and influence decisions from there.

Contrary to what its initiators expected in the 19th century, the system of direct democracy by referendum has turned into an extremely conservative influence.

The electorate is notoriously cussed and regularly says "no" to those in authority and to change. It took until 1971 before women were given the vote. It took until 1983 before the first woman was appointed to a cantonal government.

The citadel of the federal Government remains unscathed, but who can say that nothing ever changes in Switzerland?

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Editorial production: Arthur Dawson. Design: Philip Hunt.	

## Slow progress in joining the UN

By Anthony McDermott

SWISS POLITICIANS have debated for a long time whether they want to join the UN—and are likely to continue doing so for a while.

The question has been placed before a Commission of the National Council, the lower house of the Parliament. It reported on August 18 by a majority of 20-4 (with two abstentions) in favour of joining. But the Commission said the Government should first make a solemn declaration to the world that Switzerland would maintain its armed neutrality. This message would be transmitted to each member of the UN and emphasized in the formal application. But the Parliament as a whole has to take up the matter and is not going to do so before the elections next October.

In any case the matter will have to be submitted to the electorate in a referendum. Traditional parochialism, conservatism and a genuine Swiss addition to neutrality will prove formidable obstacles when the referendum is eventually held.

The Government has suggested making a unilateral declaration of Swiss neutrality at the moment of joining the UN, but the parliamentary committee dealing with the matter would like the UN itself to offer an explicit guarantee that the country's status will be respected.

Dr Raymond Probst, a senior under-secretary at the Swiss foreign ministry, visited the UN in June to explore the likely reaction to such a proposal.

In spite of the fact that neutrals such as Sweden (in 1946) and Austria (in 1955 to 1956) have joined the UN and that their status has not apparently suffered as a result, Switzerland appears to be seeking the sort of undertakings it obtained before joining the League of Nations in 1920. These exempted it from participating in military sanctions imposed by the League.

It is still relevant that in a referendum at that time the votes in favour of joining were only 416,870 to 323,719, with a decisive overall majority only in the French-speaking and Italian-speaking cantons. They carried the day against such opposition bastions as Zurich and Aargau in the Alemannic-speaking areas.

The Swiss Government for years has been in favour of joining the UN, provided the terms were right. Almost as soon as the UN came into being, a commission of the Federal Council (government) found membership to be desirable. The Council delivered reports in 1969, 1971 and again in 1977, which latched towards the need of becoming a member.

CONTINUED ON PAGE VII

## WHY A PATEK PHILIPPE IS THE COSTLIEST WATCH TO PRODUCE AND ONE OF THE FINEST INVESTMENTS YOU CAN OWN.

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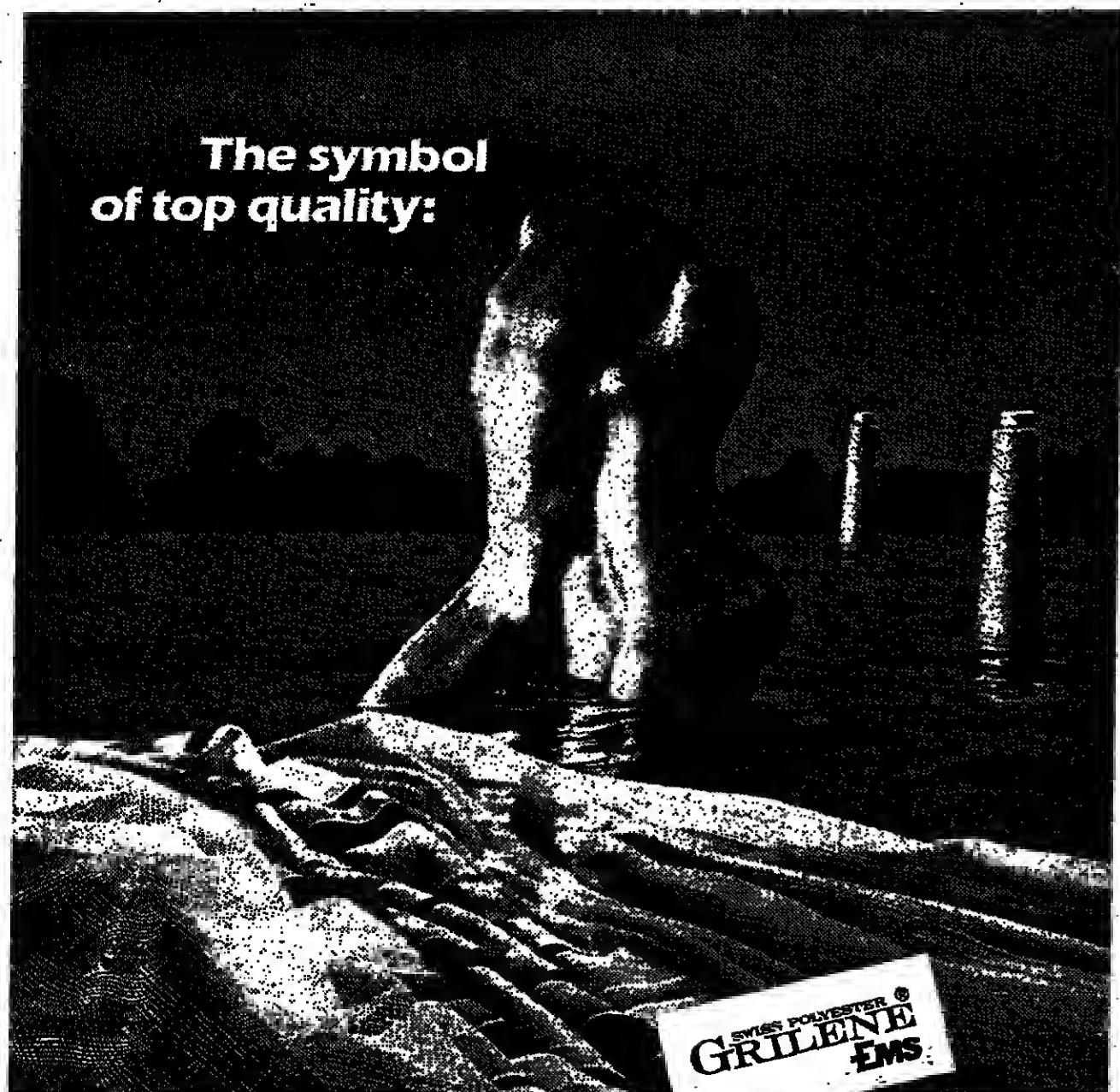
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A 120.213 "Love Story", sculpture by Hans Jörg Limbach, Hombrechtikon, Switzerland

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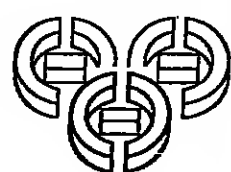
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## SWITZERLAND II

# Where referendums rule

AN ELECTION will be held in Switzerland this October. The Socialists are likely to lose a few seats. Some radical parties of Left and Right are likely to gain.

Yet nothing much will change because the referendum rather than the parliamentary election is the main instrument of democracy in Switzerland. It can be a very treacherous instrument as the following story shows.

In 1969 the electorate, by referendum, decided that the federal Government in Bern should have responsibility for regional planning and zoning. The Government drafted a law implementing that recommendation. The parliament passed it. The electorate promptly rejected it. The powers supposedly granted in 1969 remained theoretical only.

Anyone who collects 100,000 signatures within 18 months can have a constitutional initiative or motion, such as that for regional planning, put before the electorate. If a majority as well as majorities in a majority of the individual cantons agree, that proposal is entrenched in the constitution. Anyone collecting 50,000 signatures within three months of the parliament passing a law can have that law submitted to a referendum. A simple majority of the electorate is enough to invalidate the law.

As though that were not enough, the Swiss voter has a notorious tendency to vote "no." Experience has shown that about 20 per cent of those who turn up for the constant referendums say "no" regardless of what the question before them is. The miracle, hence, is not that Swiss politics is uneventful, but that anything happens at all.

The knowledge that the voter always has the last word explains why, since 1959, the federal Government has been manned by representatives of the four biggest parties, and why that is unlikely to change this autumn.

Suppose the Socialists do badly. The non-Socialists would have no incentive for throwing out the Socialists, since, in opposition, they could make the Government's life a misery with a succession of referendums. Besides, the non-Socialists regard Socialist membership in the Government as an important element of that social consensus which has made strikes all but unknown in Switzerland.

Nobody therefore seriously expects the election to end the so-called magic formula of Swiss politics under which, since 1959, two of the seven members of the Government, are Socialists; two members of the liberal Free Democratic Party; two are Christian Democrats; and one is a member of the Swiss People's Party which seeks its voters among the farmers and small business people.

These seven men act as a body: they hold together even

if—as often happens—their parties differ among each other about policy or legislation. That is possible because neither government nor parliament take the ultimate decisions: final authority rests with the people. And even though the people generally say "no," the referendum is a means by which they send signals to the politicians that something needs changing.

The obvious instance is a series of referendums intended

### Politics

W. L. LUTKENS

to reduce drastically the number of migrant labourers. Though so far all have been defeated, sending the popular mood the Government has moved towards a more restrictive policy on the admission of foreigners.

A similar effect can occur even before a motion is put to the popular vote. To a certain extent this has happened in the case of a motion, sponsored by the Socialists and to be put to the referendum in 1984, to reduce bank powers and to budge about the celebrated Swiss banking secrecy.

Unless something spectacular happens the motion is likely to be defeated, but some of the objectives of the sponsors have already been met in part. For instance they called for the introduction of compulsory deposit insurance.

A proposal to that end is incorporated in a draft bank Act which the Government has submitted for discussion by the interested parties.

The Socialists also called for measures designed to prevent the use of Swiss bank accounts for purposes of tax evasion by foreigners. Here, too, something has happened.

Since the beginning of this year, Switzerland is ready to extend legal aid to foreign authorities seeking evidence to convict tax evaders. Previously such aid was available only to investigators from countries such as the U.S., with which Switzerland had agreements to that effect.

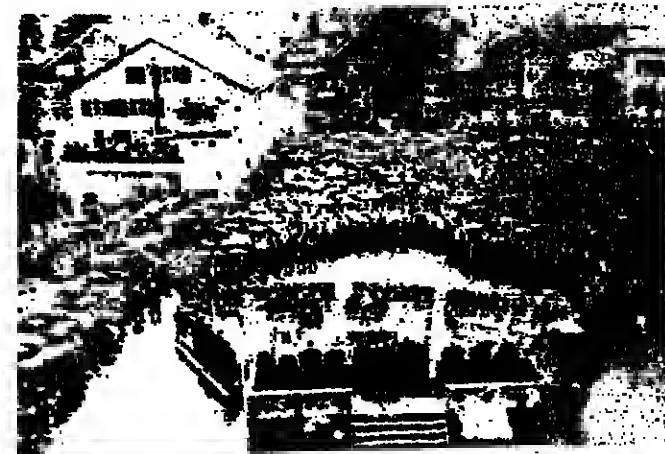
It would be idle to pretend that tax collectors outside Switzerland are fully satisfied by the new law. Legal aid is available only in cases where offences are alleged that would be punishable under Swiss criminal law.

Tax fraud involving forgery is punishable—but simple evasion, for instance by failing to declare income, is not a criminal offence.

Energy management is another subject which has been very much influenced by the interplay of referendums. In 1979 a motion for a ban on the construction of further nuclear power stations was defeated by the slimmest of majorities. The Government got the message and has been slow to act upon applications for building permits.

Now another two referendums are pending. The farther reaching of the two motions would forbid the construction of new power stations after the completion of Leibstadt, the country's fifth station. It would also forbid the replacement of any of the five stations once it had reached the end of its useful life.

Industry is horrified by this prospect since Switzerland



Direct democracy in its purest form: in several Swiss cantons legislation is passed not by an elected body but by an assembly of all citizens of voting age. The assembly or Landsgemeinde at Appenzell (above) which has been held annually since AD 1377. Men only: the square is said to be too small to hold the adults of both sexes.

### RESULT OF FEDERAL ELECTION 1979

Government parties	% of votes cast	Non-government parties	% of votes cast
Social Democrats	24.4	Independents	4.1
Free Democrats	24.1	Liberals	2.3
Christian Democrats	21.5	Communists	2.1
Swiss People's Party	11.6	Others	8.4

already depends on nuclear power for 23 per cent of its electricity. Leibstadt will raise that share to 40 per cent.

The less extreme of the two motions does not explicitly mention nuclear power, but calls for an energy policy based on economics; the encouragement of alternative renewable energies; and on avoiding

dependence upon large scale technologies.

How the people will decide remains to be seen, but the chances are very real that at least the more moderate of the two motions will go through. So, the changes brought about will be far more profound than anything that may emerge from the parliamentary elections.

To question the Army is to question Swiss honour

# Military pride is a sensitive area

WEDGED in the crowds in Geneva emerging from the film Gandhi, a girl pushed a pamphlet in my hand. It was called "What does Switzerland do to those who take their inspiration of non-violence from Gandhi?" and represented the work of conscientious objectors calling for the introduction of a civilian service as an alternative to military service.

Military service is compulsory for all fit males in Switzerland. Those who are disqualified because of a disability or a refusal to serve, or who have for some reason missed training sessions, have to pay a contribution, tax. Conscientious objectors are jailed and also have to pay the tax. Last year 729 went to prison (compared with 593 in 1981, and an annual average of about 370 during the 1970s), receiving sentences on the whole of about six months.

When this number is set against the 30,000 to 40,000 recruits receiving basic training each year, it is small. But, undoubtedly under the influence of peace movements in Europe, it is the increase, and the crucial section of Amnesty International made the point last May that, in non-Communist Europe, besides Switzerland, only Cyprus, Greece and Turkey did not recognise the right of conscientious objection.

The chances of the Swiss agreeing to an alternative to military service must be considered extremely small. A referendum to that effect was defeated in the 1970s.

The armed forces are not only remarkable in their structure, deployment and ability to mobilise, and the pride taken in them great. They also represent a fundamental and highly sensitive factor in Swiss life. As Jonathan Steinberg has written in his book *Why Switzerland?* "To question the army is to question Swiss honour. If the young 'won't go,' it must mean that they no longer think Switzerland worth defending." It is next to nothing that convicted conscientious objectors have found it hard getting a job.

The efforts which Switzerland has deployed to ensure that its armed neutrality is preserved are considerable. Its overall strategy is to organise its resources in such a way as to cause maximum complications for any invader (and in spite of neutrality he is expected from eastern Europe rather than elsewhere)—if discussion through political and military policies has failed. It has been spending in recent years about 20 per cent of its federal budget on civil and military defence SwFr 4bn in 1982 out of SwFr 18.9bn.

The forces are essentially a militia depending almost entirely on swift mobilisation on a scale which exceeds Israel's in size. Within 48 hours, the forces can raise about 650,000 men. The standing army consists of only 2,950. The Federal Defence Ministry employs 17,000 mainly as logistics. Of the standing army, 1,500 form the crucial training corps, just under half of whom are officers.

The small number of officers on active permanent duty is underlined by the fact that officers, in all, total 50,000. Apart from instructors and members of the general staff, the only military on continuous service are those of air surveillance.

lance (of a country only 41,000 sq km large and with a population of 6.5m) and guarding key installations.

A report published in March by two American generals for the Western Goals Foundation, draws attention to the extent to which Switzerland has invested not only in making any invasion very costly, but also in trying to ensure that life (and resistance) might continue afterwards, even in the event of a nuclear or gas attack. For example, war, medical and food supplies are stored in more than 100 km of tunnels.

About 4,000 permanent obstacles and barriers and more than 2,000 demolition devices (especially on bridges and in tunnels) are in place. The country has 40 military hospitals ready, 10 of which are underground. Shelter space is available for 85 per cent of the civilian population. This is planned to become 100 per cent by 1990.

The actual training system is rigorously applied, and has been refined over the years. Active servicemen fall into

three categories. Men aged between 20 and 32 are given an initial 17-week training course. They then return home with their rifles and ammunition.

This is followed by a total of three weeks of military training each year. Men between the ages of 33 and 42 serve in the Landwehr, a sort of territorial

that the appointments are made by the Federal Defence Department. Up to the rank of brigadier it is possible to retain a civilian job. Above that, an officer finds himself co-opted on to the general staff. There is no supreme commander as such. But when an emergency arises, parliament selects one. The forces, with their constant training and mingling of people of different backgrounds and jobs, could thus be an important socially-unifying factor. In addition both officers and non-commissioned officers have their own private associations (with their own publications) and these have offices in each of the cantons providing a network of links and assistance to any soldier seeking social or business contacts as he moves about the country.

Precisely how democratic in practice the army is, and thus the extent to which it can alter rather than mirror society is open to some question. A senior official in the beleaguered watch industry, which has had

### Army life

ANTHONY McDERMOTT

army, doing a total during this period of 40 days' service.

Finally, those between 43 and 50 serve in the Landsturm as a second line reserve, doing about 20 days' training. Thereafter, those not already involved in civil defence join the official military reserve.

All men start as privates. Up to the level of captain, promotions are done by the government of the cantons. Above

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For your information, in November we are proposing to publish the annual survey on SWISS BANKING, FINANCE & INVESTMENT which will discuss Switzerland's place as one of the foremost centres of international finance.

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## SWITZERLAND III

## Outlook for recovery is set fair

## Economy

W. L. LUTKENS

THE WORST of the recession is over for the Swiss after a year in which gross domestic product fell by 1.7 per cent net of inflation. The economists of the Helvetic Technical Academy in Zurich expect minimal growth this year, in spite of fairly export markets, followed by 2 per cent growth in 1984—by Swiss standards a middling but not contemptible performance.

Industrialists cautiously agree that the turning point has come, though the engineering industry still is suffering from a collapse of orders. The outside observer would add the recession has been a good deal less unkind to the Swiss than to many others. Unemployment at least of the visible kind, has been minute. Though there have been reductions of real wages, they have been kept within limits, 1.5 per cent in 1981, 0.1 per cent last year.

Support for a lasting recovery will have to come from abroad, given that exports (and imports as well) account for about one third of GNP. As a result, the Swiss depend very much on the performance of their main customers in West Germany, and on that of the U.S.

Hence, Swiss industry is extremely sensitive to both the exchange rate and to the inflation rate relative to that in other countries. A likely inflation rate closer to 3 than to 4 per cent this year (and less in 1984) is not too far out of step with prospects in the chief competitor countries.

Reading inflation is the first priority of the Swiss monetary authorities. Though they took part in this summer's central bank intervention to bring down the dollar, thereby tolerating a monetary increase in the monetary aggregates, it was soon made clear that monetary control remains paramount. Money supply is expected to grow by some 4 per cent this

year, at the top of a target range around 3 per cent. In 1978 the Swiss National Bank temporarily reversed its priorities, accepting an inflationary spurt as the price of keeping the franc at a rate of "fixed" above 80 centimes for DM. That figure still remains sensitive, but no more. Herr Fritz Leutwiler, President of the Swiss National Bank, has argued for maintaining a degree of independence vis-à-vis the Deutsche Mark.

Overall, the Swiss currency continues to look likely to appreciate in the long run, in spite of the acute concern this is causing many exporters of capital goods.

Customers abroad are reluctant to enter into longer term commitments in Swiss francs. In practice it means that the Swiss franc is transferred to the exporter.

Beyond that he forgoes the traditional advantage of low Swiss franc interest rates because long term finance has to be found in dollars or another currency.

Labor costs, though high, are less rigid in Switzerland than in many other countries. The Swiss unions have largely forgone real wage increases for the time being and are concentrating upon preserving the traditional (though not contractually imposed) practice of wage indexation.

Even in this matter, the long established social consensus provides a mechanism of relief for employers in trouble. In the engineering industry, for instance, an employer who feels that he is not in a position to keep wages in line with consumer prices can go to arbitration, lay open his books to inspection, and hope to be let off the hook if his case convinces the tribunal.

In any case, the unions, at the moment, are concentrating more upon shorter working hours and longer holidays than upon real wage increases. That is as much a matter of long-term union objectives as of work-sharing in the present phase. The unions intend to sponsor a referendum which, by law,

## CURRENT ACCOUNT

(1982 SwFr bn)

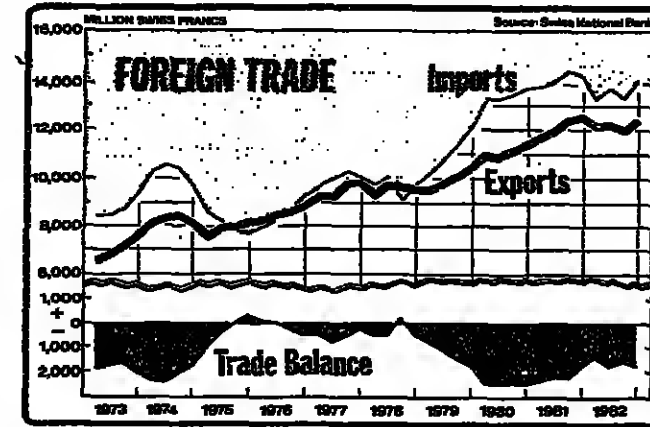
Trade	- 5.7
Services	+ 6.5
Including:	
Tourism	+ 2.4
Transfers	+ 6.6
Including:	
Dividends and interest	+ 11.7
Current account	+ 7.4

Source: Commission for conjunctural studies.

would bring in a 40-hour working week preferably with no loss of wages, as compared with the 42-43 hours now actually worked in Swiss industry.

It is the second attempt of this kind. In the late 1970s the unions made a similar bid and failed to collect the 100,000 signatures required to bring about a referendum. Given that the signatures could be found from an electorate of almost 4m, that failure sheds some light on national attitudes.

This time round the job-sharing argument may help the sponsors to collect 100,000 signatures (which is only the first step towards winning the referendum), for though there is almost no visible unemployment in Switzerland, the figures require some interpretation. At the end of July, 23,400 unemployed were registered, a



ratio of 0.8 per cent, as against 10,500 a year before. In addition, 47,600 workers were on short time.

The Swiss custom of resorting to short time rather than redundancies wherever possible is an essential ingredient of the consensus system making for almost uninterrupted labour peace.

It is generally said that the Swiss get by with almost no unemployment because they can run down their numerous foreign labour force. That did happen in the recession of the mid-1970s, but was not repeated last year.

On the contrary, many Swiss lost their jobs in 1982 and yet do not figure among the unemployed because they dropped out of the labour force. Most of these were part timers and other marginal workers.

As estimate has been made that this year some 60,000 jobs will disappear, but that only 15,000 of those involved will go job hunting.

If much of that looks a bit too good to be true, the outsider should note that there is a good deal more to Swiss flexibility and economic success than the merely idyllic. Industry, especially the

medium-sized enterprises (which in Swiss terms means a maximum of 500 employees), has preserved a remarkable adaptability, a considerable willingness to invest, in spite of the present cyclical stagnation; and a remarkable eagerness to spend money on research and development.

A study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published this year arrived at the conclusion that Switzerland had an investment quota of 25 per cent of GNP in 1981. Only Japan with 32 per cent invested more. France lay third and West Germany fourth with about 21 per cent each.

No less remarkable, R and D spending per head of the population in Switzerland came to SwFr 610 (about £175 at exchange rates then prevailing) well ahead of SwFr 468 in West Germany, SwFr 422 in the U.S. and only SwFr 295 in Japan. (The figures are taken from a report published last year by Schweizerischer Handelsund Industrie-Verein in Zurich, Forschung und Entwicklung in der Schweizerischen Privatwirtschaft.)

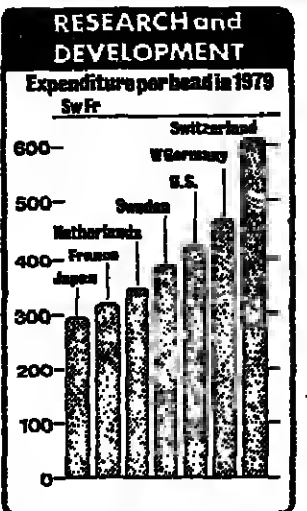
Even more remarkable, private industry funds 75 per cent of Swiss R and D. It all adds up to a strong will to survive and to an unbroken confidence in the future.

## R &amp; D EXPENDITURE

as percentage of GNP

Switzerland	2.45
Whereof in private sector	1.85
U.S.	2.41
West Germany	2.27
Japan	2.04
Netherlands	1.97
Sweden	1.90
France	1.79

Source: Swiss, Handels- und Industrie-Verein, using OECD material.



## THIS YEAR AND NEXT: A SLOW RECOVERY

(SwFr (m)—at 1970 prices)

	1983	annual change %	1984	annual change %
Private consumption	64,370	-0.5	64,690	+0.5
Public consumption	12,450	+3.0	12,700	+2.0
Investment	26,590	-1.0	27,850	+3.7
Therof: Buildings	17,250	-1.0	17,770	+3.0
Equipment	9,340	-1.0	10,120	+8.0
Final domestic demand	103,410	-0.3	105,260	+1.8
Export of goods and services	45,250	+0.6	46,515	+2.8
Total demand	148,660	0.0	151,775	+1.9
Less imports of goods and services	49,195	+1.3	50,620	+2.9

Gross domestic product at market prices: Without inventory changes 99,765 -0.6 101,175 +1.4 With inventory changes 103,265 -0.1 104,175 +1.9

Source: Economic Research Department, Helvetic Technical Academy, Zurich.

# The factors that make Switzerland a leading financial market



A Swiss infantryman patrolling the Alps

## Military service

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

to sack many workers, recently preservation and survival of attributed the co-operation of Swiss unions in this process to the binding force of army life, "which brings all sorts of different people together to share similar problems."

He also said that this gave both workers and employers a chance to understand in discussion more of the other's specific problems. But at the same time, a successful military career, especially as an officer, undoubtedly makes it easier to obtain a position in civilian employment.

In examining a jobs survey of the entire officer corps of Border Division 2 Steinberg found a high level of executive representation. "There were, of course, no workers," he says. The firms represented were a Who's Who of Swiss business.

The media give considerable coverage to current material issues. These include the long-debated questions of the establishment of a camp and training ground at Rothern and whether Switzerland should purchase the West German-made Leopard 2 tank (the favourite) or the U.S. Abrams M-1, the production of a new Swiss-made model SIG assault rifle, and road accidents which army drivers, like their counterparts elsewhere in the world, seem constantly to be having. But, in a way reminiscent of Israel, after a certain level of exposure and detail has been reached, the door of secrecy is firmly closed. For after all, the armed forces are the last line ensuring the

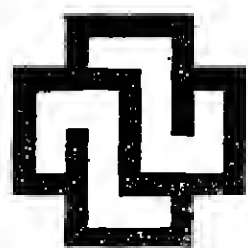
Swiss society and government. A major issue is one faced by all armies in peace time—how to provide and maintain motivation. In broad terms, some of it comes from the nature of the military job, because its stresses and tests (often in unpleasant weather conditions) are well-earned not just as a national duty but also as an opportunity for individuals to shake free from the rounds of daily life and to prove themselves.

Part of motivation comes also from history and tradition. Niccolò Machiavelli's comment "The Swiss are most armed and most free" is still true. As the report of the U.S. generals observed: "Since 1815, the Swiss have not fought in a foreign war, yet they have maintained the tradition of a citizen army and rifle and pistol shooting are among the nation's most popular sports with almost every village having a shooting range, over 3,000 ranges in all."

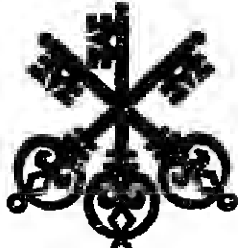
Television shows men going off happily for practice with four year old sons armed against the noise with ear muffs and carrying toy rifles. What emerges is the interplay of Swiss nationalism, the predilection of its citizens (in spite of neutrality) for the martial arts, and a genuine feeling that Switzerland is worth defending. In this, the army provides a school and constant process of re-education for its citizens. As has been remarked with apposite accuracy, "Switzerland has no army. Switzerland is an army."



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## SWITZERLAND IV

## When caution pays off



IN A period that has called the prudence and good management of the international banking system into question, and has badly dented the reputations of a good many individual institutions, the Swiss banking community has found itself held in unusually high esteem.

Domestic political pressures on the banks (discussed elsewhere in this survey) appear to have abated, while an unseemly dispute with the U.S. authorities over "insider" securities trading based on the anonymity of Swiss accounts was settled to the apparent satisfaction of both sides last October.

Far more important, however, has been the impressive strength of the Swiss banks' international loan books compared to those of their competitors in almost every other country. At the most generous estimate, no more than about 14 per cent of the total assets of the major banks are in the developing countries and of these the great majority are in the form of export credits guaranteed by the federal government's Export Risk Guarantee Fund.

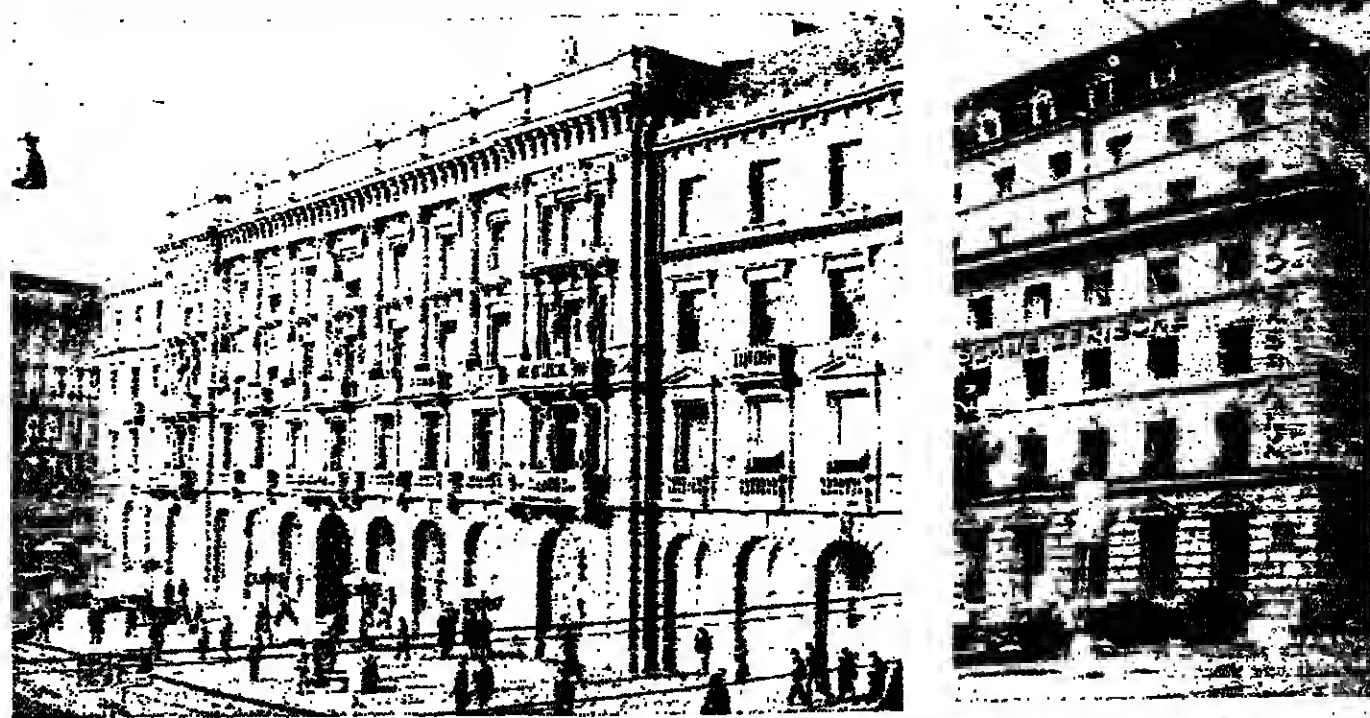
Unlike their counterparts in most other countries, Swiss banks did not rush into the market for syndicated loans to Third World Governments which flourished in the 1970s. The reason was simple enough: strict capital ratios made it impossible for them to refinance such loans on terms that would have allowed them to be competitive.

Nor were the authorities prepared to tolerate significant departures from these rules by Swiss banks' foreign subsidiaries.

Herr Bernhard Mueller, director of the Swiss Banking Commission, acknowledged last spring that "Swiss banks have called off many deals in the past because of the high cost of funds our rules have imposed on them. But I believe they are now very happy with that situation."

In Zurich's elegant Bahnhofstrasse, a senior executive concedes that "we suffered years of annoyance that our more expensive funding base cramped our expansion. Yet now we are far better placed. I do not think anyone in Switzerland would disagree that it is preferable these days to have banks that are over-capitalised."

Yet Swiss bankers are keenly aware that their fortunes are



The Zurich headquarters of two of the big five Swiss banks (left to right) Credit Suisse and Volksbank

intricately bound up with those of the international banking system. The major institutions have taken part in many of the huge restructuring operations undertaken on behalf of troubled sovereign borrowers, while in the case of Yugoslavia, the Swiss Government played a leading role.

In the words of a general manager of one large bank, "the role of this country as a financial turntable for the borrowings and investments of the rest of the world depends on the health of the international financial system as a whole."

With the first round of major financial restructuring operations now largely in place, the current Swiss judgment on the health of that system is cautiously positive. "We are experiencing a lull," says one senior regulatory official, "in which some of the panic atmosphere has now passed."

"Bankers are once again showing more discrimination between different borrower governments, and at the same time there are a few positive signs in the world economic outlook."

Yet neither the Swiss authorities nor the banks underestimate the difficulties of the second round of restructuring operations which they believe is looming over the international banking system.

There is some disagreement in Zurich over whether funds

will be readily available, given that many banks are already heavily committed for years ahead by the first round agreements.

Some Swiss bankers believe there may be an actual shortage of liquidity available to banks—though others point to the huge volumes of funds flowing into equity markets as proof that liquidity does not appear to be in short supply. Most are agreed, however, that the quality of risk and its accurate assessment should remain the central concern for commercial banks.

As concerned as the Swiss are for the health of the system, they are also largely united in the view that it is no part of the regulatory authorities' role to supply banks with judgments on the creditworthiness of borrowers. Still less do they favour the more comprehensive "lifeboat" schemes put forward under which central banks should set out detailed ground rules of what action might be taken to rescue a major international bank from serious trouble.

For the Swiss banks themselves, the international banking system is not the only cause for concern. The recession has bitten deeply into the business of several of Switzerland's traditional export industries: mechanical engineering, armaments and power engi-

neering companies are some of those whose new orders have been severely reduced and whose profitability has been badly eroded.

While Switzerland has not yet suffered a major corporate collapse, the banks were obliged two years ago to embark on the reorganisation and financial underpinning of the troubled watch industry. Earlier this

mission published in April showed that in 1979-81, Swiss banks' earnings were actually lower than the published figures suggested. The banks, while gratified at receiving such authoritative support for their efforts to improve their public image, claim in private that they are once again making more money than they declare in their published figures, making it possible to rebuild hidden reserves that in some cases are known to have been drawn heavily down in recent years.

The main factor weighing on earnings during the period of the Commission's study was the inverse yield curve, driving short-term interest rates far above longer-term rates, that resulted in 1980-81 from the leap in U.S. and Eurodollar interest rates, and coincided with a period of abnormally high inflation in Switzerland itself.

With these exceptional conditions now well behind them, Swiss financial markets have settled back to more normal interest rate relationships and expectations. For the banks, this means a return to wider margins on domestic loans business as the cost of refinancing their politically sensitive, low cost mortgages and other long-term lending has dropped.

At the same time, few bankers expect much improvement in the volume of Swiss corporate loan demand unless the world economy picks up much more rapidly than now appears probable.

Foreign exchange and precious metals dealing are not expected to yield the high profits of some recent years, though against this bankers are looking to the long bull market in equities and to the continuing boom in Swiss franc foreign lending for some juicy fee income this year from brokerage, underwriting and fiduciary business.

A study by the Banking Com-

## Thrifty habits bring benefits to sector

SWITZERLAND CONTINUES to consolidate its position as one of the world's most important insurance centres. A recent enquiry by the industry's own information unit shows that overall premium income last year showed a "glorious growth" over the nearly SwFr 25bn (\$12bn-plus) recorded for 1981.

Annual reports of leading insurers point to increased rates of 9 to 14 per cent for non-life business and 11 to 16 per cent for life and annuity premiums.

The national market is itself one of the best. In fact, in per capita terms the Swiss spend more on insurance than does any other nationality. A report issued this spring shows that by 1980, the latest year for which figures are available, Switzerland booked premium volume of the equivalent of \$960 per head of population, as compared with \$634 in the U.S. and \$556 in the U.K. As a share of gross national product, this approximated 6.1 per cent—a level second only to that of the U.S.

At the same time, Switzerland's advantages as a financial turntable have brought a great deal of business to its insurers. Companies like Zurich, Swiss Life, Swiss Reinsurance and Winterthur are big names on the world market, quite apart from the foreign presence of many other of the country's 84 direct-insurance and reinsurance firms.

The Government recently estimated that in 1981 foreign business accounted for some SwFr 13.5bn (\$6.6bn) of total premiums. That sum has doubtless risen substantially in the meantime, the result both of internal growth and the acquisition of such companies as Universal Underwriters in Kansas City by Zurich and of the Dallas-based Republic Financial Services concern by Winterthur.

Business has been developing particularly well for the life insurance companies, most of whom are satisfied and some more than satisfied with the past year. In Switzerland itself, group life and annuity policies have received a con-

siderable boost from the forthcoming introduction of the new Occupational Pensions Act—although this has recently been postponed by one year until January 1 1985, and by no means all of the new business goes to professional insurers.

Apart from this, voluntary individual coverage is profiting from insurers' attempts to promote this so-called "Third Pillar" besides state pensions and obligatory employees' pension funds.

Premium growth appears to have been even greater abroad than in Switzerland in the life-

### Insurance

JOHN WICKS

insurance sector, however. Although the Swiss franc no longer promises such currency gains as to make individual policies particularly attractive for non-residents, the major groups continue to do well in local business through foreign subsidiaries.

They also profit from the fact that there is an international trend towards improving employee pension coverage. Companies like Swiss Life—now the biggest European operator—have become specialists in pension programmes for multinationals.

Earnings seem to have risen even faster than premiums for the life sector over the past year. Apart from the overall rise in premiums, interest yield has been generally substantially higher.

When it is considered that the country's three leading life insurance companies—Swiss Life, Winterthur Life and Vita—alone have investment portfolios totalling at least SwFr 32bn (\$15.6bn), it is clear that changes in interest levels are of very considerable importance to the industry. Once again, the non-life insurers and re-insurers have had good cause to bless their rising investment income. Most companies saw a further deterioration in their under-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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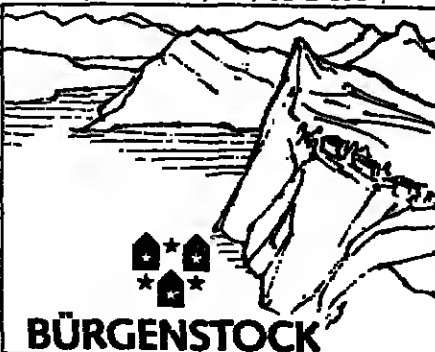
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## SWITZERLAND V

# Foreign bond market maintains strong growth

## Capital markets

ADRIAN DICKS

THE Swiss franc foreign bond market, although barely a quarter the size of the Euro-dollar market, last year further strengthened its position as the second largest source of funds for internationally active borrowers.

Public bond issues worth SwFr 9.97bn (up from the previous year's SwFr 7.75bn) and privately placed notes worth SwFr 18.2bn (compared with SwFr 11.85bn) were successfully sold to investors, while a further SwFr 9.5bn (up from SwFr 7.8bn) was raised through bond issues by domestic borrowers, including the federal, cantonal and local governments.

In addition, Swiss-based banks provided some SwFr 9.5bn in financial and export-linked credits—well below the previous year's SwFr 12.75bn. In the first half of this year, foreign borrowers raised SwFr 4.91bn on the public bond market, compared with SwFr 4.79bn for the same period of 1982. The private placements volume, after deducting re-financing operations, jumped from SwFr 7.52bn to no less than SwFr 10.46bn.

No single factor has influenced the market's rapid growth more than volatile U.S. interest rates, which have helped to drive Swiss rates back to more normal relationships. The market has put firmly behind it the period of abnormal distortion that resulted in an inverse yield curve during much of 1981, with short-term money dearer than long-term.

The Swiss inflation rate, which was still slightly over 5 per cent last year, had fallen to no more than 2.2 per cent by July and is widely expected to be running at or below 3 per cent year-on-year by the end of 1983.

Short-term EuroSwiss franc rates have dropped to below 2 per cent, while bankers say that the Swiss federal treasury paid 4.1 per cent on the latest issue in August. Despite a brief flurry of unease about interest rates earlier this spring, there seems little general expectation that they will rise unless there is a sudden reversal of the present trend in New York.

The Swiss market thus looks attractively cheap to many foreign borrowers, or at least to those who are not troubled by the prospect of making repayments in Swiss francs. The result of this situation, however, has been a heavy inflow—some Zurich bankers even call it an invasion—by a group of borrowers to whom these conditions appear ideal. Japanese industrial companies looking for funds on better terms than they find at home.

Japanese borrowers have not had the Swiss market entirely

to themselves; a number of well-known sovereign and supranational borrowers including New Zealand, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank have also come to the market, as have a handful of big foreign banks (mainly in currency swap deals) and a few North American industrial names. Yet, according to one prominent bank in the Zurich capital market, the lion's share of private placements, in particular has been for Japanese borrowers.

As has happened after comparable Japanese invasions of other sectors of the Euro-market, a good opportunity was pushed too far. Coupons on Japanese straight bonds and notes were by March being raised to 6-6½ per cent, a full percentage point above what

the banks end are thus inclined to see convertible bonds and notes as "Swiss risk" denominated in Swiss francs.

Bankers say that most conversion options are exercised early and the proceeds reinvested, suggesting that there is little interest by their clients in holding long-term positions in Japanese shares.

The popularity of private placements has been increasing ever since 1976, when the Swiss National Bank lifted its ceiling on them. Placements need not be notified to the National Bank and are not usually formally syndicated, but sold to the underwriting banks' own customers.

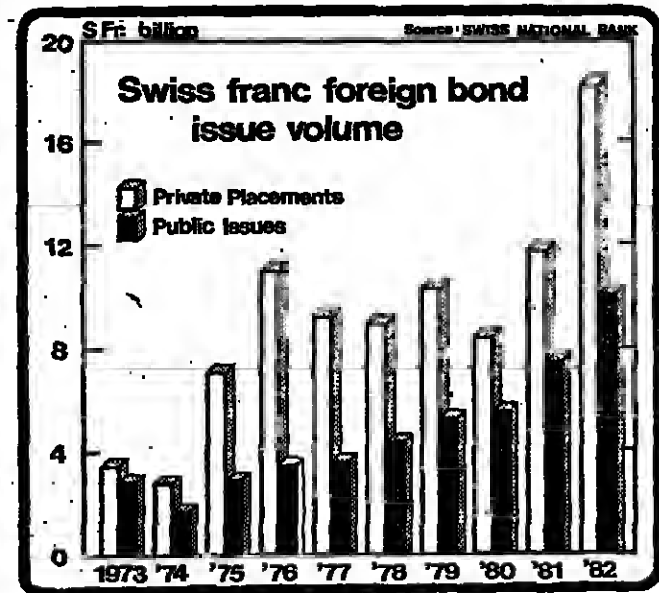
The borrower must expect to pay slightly more than might be the case for a public issue, but saves in fees that would other-

wise be involved. This makes placements an ideal vehicle for smaller issues in the SwFr 10-20m range, especially where the borrower is not a well known name.

The market's existence has also sometimes saved the Swiss authorities political embarrassment. On the last occasion that a South African borrower came to Zurich, the National Bank let it be known that it would have felt obliged by political considerations to use its right to veto a public issue if that route had been chosen.

The potential disadvantage to the investor of private placements is that the National Bank let it be known that it would have felt obliged by political considerations to use its right to veto a public issue if that route had been chosen.

The big Swiss banks all guarantee to try to match a prospective sale of notes by a private investor with a purchase, but they limit this service to notes they have brought to the market themselves. American bankers in Zurich have sought to set up a secondary market, but the



other borrowers were then paying. Swiss banks were running into investor resistance, and considerably greater selectivity has been the result.

Straight issues have divided in numbers, other than those on behalf of borrowers with Japanese Government guarantees, while the Tokyo authorities have also sought to impose an outward-looking system for prospective borrowers. At the same time there has been an increase in the number of convertible bonds and notes being offered.

With coupons around 5½ per cent (little changed since the spring), these offer the investor the opportunity, at a relatively modest 5-10 per cent average conversion premium, to take part in the current bull market in Japanese shares.

From the borrower's point of view, this route represents a cheaper way of raising equity finance than a public share issue on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The Swiss banks are unanimous in believing they have hit on an instrument that benefits everyone. Swiss investors, though they may never have heard of the Japanese borrower, rely heavily on the research done by

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## Thrifty habits benefit insurance

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

writing results in 1982 to an even deeper shade of red, so it is thanks to their capital income that they have improved overall net profit levels.

Claims continue to show an overall growth, not only because of inflation and a large number of major catastrophes during the year, but also in the light of soaring medical and repair costs, a rise in crime and

probably also more insurance fraud.

As always, premiums lag behind inflation, a fact which is aggravated by official price controls and in part tough international competition. Re-insurance companies are still among those subject to pressure from "cut-price" competitors, many of whom are recent entrants to the market.

Swiss insurers are concerned about the rise in underwriting losses, though these are more than offset by growing interest income. Speaking at the annual meeting of the Helvetia Group in Zurich this spring, Helvetia's general manager Dr Fritz Hefli spoke out against the "desolate technical condition" of numerous branches of the insurance industry.

He expressed the hope that the falling interest trend would bring about a return to common sense, given what he called the "desolate technical condition" of numerous branches of the insurance industry.

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### Cautious note

The enquiry carried out by the Bernese Versicherungsvermittlungsbörse earlier this year indicates that 1983 will probably run very much along the lines of last year. Life insurance companies await rather lower investment yields—albeit on a higher portfolio sum—than in 1982, but are encouraged on the other hand by what they see as a tendency on the part of the thrifty Swiss to increase their savings even further.

Non-life insurers strike a more cautious note, since a weakening of interest rates is not likely to be made up for by any improvement of underwriting results. Though inflation is falling, they fear a continued rise in claims—not least in the sickness-insurance sector—and continued difficulties in raising premiums.

Insurance companies and pension funds remain extremely important lenders on the national capital market. This accounts for a major share of their overall Swiss investments: bonds alone make up over one-third of the life assurance com-

panies' and pension funds' portfolios and more than one-half of those of the non-life direct insurers and the re-insurance companies.

There has also been a gradual rise in their stake in the mortgage market. National Bank figures showing that by the end of 1981 insurance companies, stock funds and pension funds together had some SwFr 20.6bn (\$10bn) of their assets in this form.

The insurance sector as a whole is also a leading—doubtless by far the leading—investor in Swiss property, with overall holdings in this field which today must be in the region of SwFr 80bn.

As borrowers, the insurance companies made little use of the Swiss market in 1982, with a single convertible-bond issue worth SwFr 120.6m by Zurich and two small registered-share issues worth a total of only SwFr 5m by The General of Bern and Familia Life. In February of this year, though, Winterthur launched a borrowing offensive with the simultaneous issue of SwFr 240m worth of convertible bonds and SwFr 80m worth (issue value) of registered shares.

The big insurers are certainly among the leading names on the Stock Exchanges. Zurich, Winterthur and Swiss Re were in the Zurich bourse's top ten last year in terms of market to be made up for by any improvement of underwriting results. Though inflation is falling, they fear a continued rise in claims—not least in the sickness-insurance sector—and continued difficulties in raising premiums.

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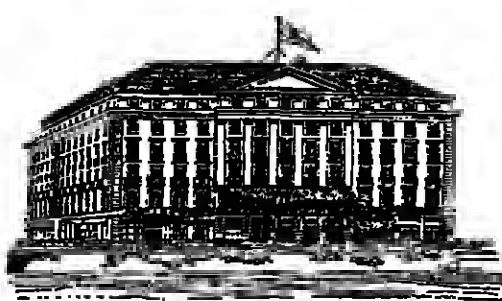
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## SWITZERLAND VI

# Leaders in key manufacturing sectors

FOR ALL ITS ski slopes and bank vaults, Switzerland is one of the most highly industrialised countries in the world. In 1981 the industrial sector created an estimated Sw Fr 74bn, or nearly \$36bn, in added value — the equivalent of about Sw Fr 61,250 per employee.

Merchandise exports alone account for over one-third of gross national product, with Swiss companies among the leaders in such key industries as machine-building and chemicals.

Although still remarkably prosperous in any international comparison, the country is currently passing through a long period of recession. Industrial output is falling for the third successive year, the industrial labour force is shrinking and the order book volume was 11 per cent lower this spring than a year earlier. Nor is any real upswing likely before next year.

Sluggish domestic and foreign markets, together with continued pressure on profits, have naturally had a dampening effect on investments. Industrial building projects are at their lowest level for years while investment spending on equipment is expected by the Govern-

ment to repeat its real-terms 1982 decline of about 5 per cent this year.

Many companies would be glad to get back to using existing capacities, quite apart from thinking about expansion. For the past year, in fact, the stress has been on thinning out uneconomic operations; a total of 220 industrial premises in the terms of the Factory Acts closed down in 1982, bringing the total down to 8,657 against 8,265 as recently as January, 1978.

These developments have fuelled the old argument as to whether Switzerland is still a good site for manufacturing. There are certainly disadvantages enough apparent in a Swiss production base, not least the strength of the national currency and the fact that by the end of 1982 male wage-earners in industrial and craft employment were earning an average of about \$7.15 per hour.

At the same time, it is anything but easy to find a new site to build a plant in Switzerland; industrial building land is rare, dear and subject to frequent blocking moves from an environment-conscious public. Indeed, an important share of

Swiss industry's fixed-asset investment is today taking place abroad. Almost all major manufacturing companies in Switzerland may be regarded as more or less multi-national. The exigencies of the market-place have led them to an increasing extent to acquire foreign plants or set up green-field factories of their own closer to their customers.

The fact that relatively little bricks-and-mortar growth appears to be taking place in Switzerland itself is something of an optical illusion, though. In 1982 for example, the three Basle chemical concerns (Ciba-Geigy, Roche and Sandoz) devoted an average of over 31 per cent of group investments to Switzerland, the Alusuisse group showed a Swiss share of almost 70 per cent, and the internationally active, completely German-owned Bielefeld invested over 67 per cent of the sum in Switzerland and Liechtenstein projects.

This development reflects an industrial revolution of a very particular — and very Swiss — kind. Its almost complete lack of raw materials has always kept Switzerland's industry out

of high-tonnage, low-value production.

Today's lack of manpower and space have accelerated the resultant search for advanced technology and an ever-increasing value-added component in manufacturing. While standard or bulk products can still be turned out by foreign subsidiaries, new investments at home have, of economic necessity, to feature "something

special": for export or on the wide-open home market.

Manufacturers have to aim for leading-edge goods able to demand a high unit price and good price-elasticity.

Where these qualities are missing, it is generally hard for the Swiss to hold their own. Over the years much of the textile and shoe industry has disappeared, together with most commodity chemicals and the bulk of the once-thriving plating and watch industry. Fortunately, a new technology has moved in fast, so that even now during a major recession unemployment is running at only 0.8 per cent. (An albeit very rough idea of current industrial economics in Switzerland is given by the fact that visible exports have an average value of over Sw Fr 10,000 per tonne, or well over five times corresponding import prices.)

The need to innovate is made easier by the traditions of skilled work in existing Swiss factories and the high level of trade and professional training. The number of apprentices has been rising continuously since 1969 and totalled 178,735 at the end of 1981, while nearly 64,000 University students were registered for 1981-82.

Similarly, the business sector spends a large amount on research and development. Estimates by the employers' association Vorort put total industrial R&D expenditure at some Sw Fr 2,770bn (\$1,340bn) for 1980, the most recent year for which calculations are possible, of which about Sw Fr 1,490bn (\$723bn) alone was accounted for by the chemical companies and Sw Fr 1,120bn (\$546bn) by machine-builders.

Of the more than 19,000 research staff, some 10,300 were graduates.

In Switzerland itself there is a long-standing fear that one day the country may become little more than a think-tank and administrative headquarters for a series of industrial giants. In fact, the companies themselves are not so keen to prevent this — as witnessed by their continuing new investments in plant and equipment at home.

Current philosophy is that neither research nor administration can be carried out properly "in vacuo" at too great a distance from the factory floor. Also, the substantial cost of Swiss-based R & D facilities means that hard Swiss francs have to be earned out of production for financing them.

Certainly, the major expansion of Switzerland's industrial concerns during the coming years will continue to be on foreign sites. At the same time, the continuing opportunities for technological and scientific progress seem sure to retain the country's character as a lucrative manufacturing base.

## Industry

JOHN WICKS

special": for export or on the wide-open home market. Manufacturers have to aim for leading-edge goods able to demand a high unit price and good price-elasticity.

## BASLE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

	CIBA-GEIGY	ROCHE	SANDOZ	ALUSUISSE
	1982	1981	1982	1981
Group turnover	13,808	13,599	7,100	6,775
Parent-company profits	165	147	67	64
Group profits	622	521	281	253
Investments	868	875	704	605
R & D spending	1,175	1,076	921	808
Group employees (total)	79,413	80,179	46,484	44,032

At the same time, the industry continues its constant battle to earn more by raising the added-value content of its products. As well as keeping up the innovative flow from "established" operations, the companies are keen to expand into promising new fields of activity.

Without a steady stream of new products, there seems little chance at present for Swiss companies to earn more. Quite apart from the disadvantage of a Swiss franc which is high in relation to most other currencies, chemical prices are under pressure. The country's wholesale index of chemical prices actually dropped 1.6 per cent between September, 1982, and this March.

Latest investment programmes show that the industry wants to keep plenty of options open, retaining and developing a wide range of product groups and national markets. Growth will naturally be centred on potentially lucrative businesses, in the life science and pharmaceuticals, now the subject of an expensive relocation scheme, Ciba-Geigy has the modest aim of "not losing any more money," but generally investments are linked to real earnings potential.

In this connection, it seems that pharmaceuticals could well increase their share of an estimated 40-45 per cent in overall Swiss chemical output. Although sales ex-Switzerland fell by 2 per cent in 1982 and despite justified industry worries about eroding patent protection, generics and governmental price controls, the pharmaceutical business is still paying well.

It stands to be boosted substantially in the future by the development of new biotechnological processes and has acted as touchstone for the build-up of interesting new activities in such fields as health-care equipment and diagnostics.

Genetic engineering also seems certain to advance the agro-chemicals and seeds sectors. To which the Swiss companies have an important stake — though sales are suffering a marked setback this year by the reduction of agricultural acreage in the U.S.

Most other chemical products

— whether dyestuffs, flavours and fragrances, chemical intermediates, plastics or consumer chemicals — will presumably enjoy an upswing once there is a noticeable recovery in the economy. The traditional Swiss "dyestuffs" and "chemicals" sector, long faced with weak industrial demand and poor prices, is far from being played out, incidentally: in January, Sandoz paid \$72m for the Sodyco Division of Marti Marietta, after having bought up another sulphur-dye producer (Cardoner in Spain) in 1980.

All in all, this year seems to be relatively promising. Sales of the "Big Three" rose by 5 per cent for Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz and 11.5 per cent for Roche in the first half. Sandoz recording "satisfactory" and Roche "slightly improved" earnings.

Whether 1982 profits can be repeated, though, depends on exchange rates and such developments as those in the agricultural sector.

## Chemicals

JOHN WICKS

THE PAST YEAR has not been an easy one for the Swiss chemical business. With all but a small part of its output going for export, the industry has been directly affected by world recession.

Output from Swiss plants showed a slight drop from 1981 levels, while exports rose by only 2.5 per cent — the equivalent of a 4.2 per cent decline in real terms. The situation is improving, however, with first-half exports up 4 per cent over the same 1982 period despite a small price drop.

Despite its numerous difficulties the industry has been holding its own. Compared with other Swiss industries and with our European competitors we have done rather better," Sandoz chairman Dr Yves Dumont said in Basle this spring.

The fact is that at least the major producers (Ciba-Geigy, Hoffmann-La Roche, Sandoz, and the Alusuisse subsidiary Lonza) all improved both nominal earnings and actual profitability in 1982. Furthermore, all of them are expecting the current year to yield results which are at least no worse.

In fact, consolidated corporate results are not comparable with statistics for the national industry. The leading Basle companies, which account for the lion's share of Swiss chemical operations, are all multi-nationals with important manufacturing bases abroad.

Many of these foreign subsidiaries are growing rapidly, a growth not always obvious in corporate accounts due to the translation of sales and profits into the rock-hard Swiss franc. In terms of local currencies, 1982 sales by the Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz group rose by 8 and

## Chemicals

JOHN WICKS

17 per cent respectively. Restated in Swiss francs, turnover growth rates were only 1 and 5 per cent for the two concerns.

More important than the rates at which sales have risen is the trend in operating profit. The return-on-turnover rate for Roche went up to nearly 4 per cent, that of Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz to 4.5 per cent last year. This is encouraging, though hardly much more than the industry average as a whole. The trade association SOCI says that profitability levels are too low. Certainly, the Basle groups were working with yields of 8 and 7 per cent in 1981, the halcyon days of the early 1970s.

Dr Louis von Planta, chairman and managing director of Ciba-Geigy, is therefore not alone when he says: "Our first priority is to improve

profitability". With the exception of a relatively small consumer goods sector angled at the home market, the Swiss chemical industry is a highly innovative business with a corresponding need for intensive research.

Corporate R and D spending accounts for anything from 7 to 15 per cent of sales, depending on product. In Swiss laboratories alone, chemical research expenditure is believed to have reached about Sw Fr 1,500bn in 1980, with probably another Sw Fr 600bn going on R and D work outside the country. This kind of spending calls for a more or less comfortable profit margin.

In the past couple of years chemical managements have been trying to improve their yields by a review of the costs. This kind of spending calls for a more or less comfortable profit margin.

Rationalisation is certainly not confined to the parent companies alone, as proved by such recent moves as the Hoechst group's closure of the Ilford division, a Roche "cost analysis" programme in the United States and elsewhere or the sell-off by Lonza to ICI of its polyvinyl chloride plants in Germany and Switzerland.

# Few signs of recovery

THE LONG-LASTING international recession has thrown a heavy spanner into the works of the Swiss engineering industry. Exports of the metals and machine-building sector rose by only 2 per cent last year, or at well below the industry rate.

The real-terms decline in overall turnover was even greater, with sales barely reaching the nominal 1981 volume despite growth of some 5 to 6 per cent in the first half; by the final quarter, turnover was down by 8 per cent or more on the corresponding period of the previous year.

The hard times have been reflected in the annual reports of almost all the major manufacturers. The three biggest Swiss machine-builders — Brown, Boveri, Sulzer and Oerlikon-

Bühler — are all to cut back their dividend in respect of 1982, while Georg Fischer and Von Roll are among businesses unable to pay anything at all to shareholders.

The labour force of the metals and machinery industry fell last year to about 5 per cent below the 1975 level, with 3,500-odd unemployed and nearly 35,000 employees on short time by the year's end.

There are very few signs of recovery this year so far. The industry entered 1983 with what, for the Association of Swiss Machine-builders (VSM), are in effect the thinnest order books on record. In the fourth quarter of last year, VSM member companies' orders on hand were equal to only 5.9 months' production as compared with 9.8 months in the boom year 1974.

Virtually all branches of the industry were affected by the drying up of new business, in particular the textile machinery and machine tool manufacturers. At the end of 1982, in fact, every product group was seen as having less work in hand than would cover average production times.

Initial figures show how the crisis is, indeed, continuing. Latest Customs Directorate statistics point to a nominal drop of over 4.4 per cent in Swiss exports of machinery and instruments for the first half of 1983 over the same period of last year, this again representing a much greater drop after adjustment for inflation.

Since plant and equipment investment in Switzerland itself is obviously shrinking, the home market is unable to make up the slack. "The silver lining is a long time coming," said M. Pierre Borgeaud, chairman of VSM, in August.

News from the labour market confirms this view. By the end of March the number of jobless in the industry had grown to almost 4,000 and that of workers on short time to over 33,450.

Since then the total has probably grown further, on a single day in April, Brown Boveri announced plans to increase the number of short-time employees from 700 to about 2,200 in its Swiss works during the coming

six months, while Sulzer's Swiss locomotive and machine works decided to put 300 employees on short time and the Georg Fischer group disclosed that it was to close a subsidiary plant in Aarau. Many more lay-offs and short-time programmes have been announced since.

## Mechanical engineering

JOHN WICKS

In the medium term there is some reason for optimism. The economies of major industrialised countries, who are the most important markets for Swiss machinery, are generally showing signs of improving.

Certainly, the engineering industry has reason to be pleased at the easing down of exchange rates. Not only are companies glad to be able to calculate better in the absence of marked fluctuations in the foreign currency market, but the Swiss franc is no longer at an unacceptably high level in terms of the dollar and the D-Mark is at last strengthening.

There is no danger of anything approaching euphoria, however. Most recent developments disprove forecasts that there would be a recovery in the current year, warns M. Borgeaud. Any real improvement is likely to wait until next year — and even then be no more than a modest fillip.

Even when business does start looking up, it will take some time for the industry to get back into shape again. Quite apart from the need to return to something closer to full capacity use and full employment, machine builders' earnings have fallen considerably in the past few years.

On the average cashflow seems to have dropped by more than half since the mid-70s. Quite a few companies are working at minimal profits or on an actual loss, despite the freeing of part of their capital resources.

There is little opportunity, at present, to lift profitabil-

ity by raising prices. Swiss companies, who prefer to bill in copper-bottomed Swiss francs, are rarely able to put up prices by adequate amounts — if at all — in a listless market at a time of sharp competition.

Again to quote M. Borgeaud, who is also management chief of the Sulzer Brothers engineering group: "It should be taken as a warning sign that cash-flow has fallen off at a time when technological change has concentrated, largely as a result of developments in the electronics sector, and calls for the use of more funds. Insufficient cash-flow generally means that a company becomes less and less able to adjust to the continuous change process."

In fact, the industry is well aware that its future lies in the software rather than the hardware element. As in any other Swiss industry, there is little room for run-of-the-mill production and stock items. The innovative effort of Swiss machine-builders is apparent in the fact that R and D spending by engineering companies is believed to have reached some Sw Fr 1,120bn by 1980 and doubtless risen since.

At present, the question is how much of this effort can be financed from operational earnings. Profits will have to make quite a comeback to guarantee the meeting of growing research needs.



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## SWITZERLAND VII

Creeping crisis enforces reconstruction

## A timely merger

A CREEPING crisis in an industry that once was supreme in the world has led to a merger of the two biggest watchmaking concerns. The merger, between ASUAG and SSIH, is the first of a series of mergers in the Swiss watch industry. The Swiss watch industry has been in a state of decline since the early 1970s. The number of companies has fallen from over 1,000 ten years ago to 727 at the end of 1982. Employment has fallen from 130,000 to 100,000. The industry has lost its position as the world's leading watchmaker. It is now a major importer of watches from other countries.

Switzerland has kept faith with the analogue (timepieces with hands) rather than digital watch. The former now accounts for between 80 and 90 per cent of the world market. Over this same period, the effect on watchmaking companies and on employment has been dramatic, especially in a country where the recently reached national unemployment rate of around one per cent was seen as something of a feat.

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## Watches

ANTHONY MCDERMOTT

has fallen by half from 78,388 in 1974 to 38,151. The ASUAG-SSIH merger could result in the lay off of another 1,500 mainly in ASUAG. Between them, the two companies employ 13,200 people.

Dr Peter Gross, the representative of Union Bank of Switzerland on the merger committee and president of the SSIH management committee, writing in the daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung the day after the merger was announced, summed up Switzerland's fallen position as follows: between 1970 and 1982 the country's share of world watch production fell from 30 to 9 per cent. The value of these pieces, as a share of the world output, fell less dramatically from 40 to 30 per cent.

In 1982, the Suisse share by both value and numbers of the world market in luxury watches was 88 per cent. In the higher quality range, Switzerland in 1982 had 38 per cent of pieces and 70 per cent of value, in the middle category respectively 18 and 24 per cent, and in the cheap range 5 per cent of both value and pieces.

This list underlines that Swiss watches are still supreme in the high quality area. An important contribution here comes from Geneva's Big Three, Rolex, Patek and Philippe, which have been continuing to have success, in contrast to the more traditional watch towns of Biel/Bienne (home of ASUAG and SSIH), La Chaux-de-Fonds and Grenchen.

The need to stress the high quality market is sustained by 1982's export figures. While the number of pieces fell by 31 per cent in 1982, their value per piece rose by only 7.9 per cent. This also makes another point:

from SwFr 44.3m to only SwFr 27.5m, the lowest level since 1970 and dividend had to be cut from 10 to 6 per cent.

No further deterioration of parent company profits is expected this year and consolidated cash flow should grow more quickly than turnover.

Like many other engineering groups, Brown Boveri has been hit by the worldwide slowdown in capital goods investment. Apart from the dampening effect this has had on demand from industrial customers, the group is suffering from a shortage of new business from electricity utilities—particularly in the case of actual power station plant, for which international over-capacities exist in many cases.

Over and above this, though, Baden headquarters have had a lot of difficulties with various foreign ventures.

that logically—and the view is not held so enthusiastically by high quality producers—the area in which to reinforce recovery must lie in the more popular categories, and in retaining more Swiss-made watch parts for use in exported ready watches.

There is little room for complacency this year, even if the world economy recovers somewhat. Figures released by the Fédération de l'Industrie Horlogère Suisse for the first three months of 1983 indicate a fall of 9.3 per cent in the value of Swiss exports to SwFr 714m compared with the comparable period in 1982.

Within these figures, the export of electronic watches and movements was up 2 per cent in value to SwFr 305m and by SwFr 23.4m in numbers to about 4m. (The unit price of such items fell over the same period from SwFr 93 to 77.)

Mechanical watches suffered severe declines in both value and numbers. The big merger, as far as is known, will mean for the time being that both companies will retain their own brands—in ASUAG's case Certina, Longines, Rado, Eterna, and latterly the popularly priced "Swatch", which has had a powerful impact on the Swiss market, and in SSIH's case Omega and Tissot.

The restructuring and reorganisation, as recommended by Hayek Engineering, which had been studying the case since June 1982, is likely to result in some changes in management (as was the abrupt case with SSIH, which lost 837 jobs since the beginning of 1982) and the number of models for the merged companies is likely to be reduced.

There is little proof needed that from a financial point of view, the country's two largest watch companies needed a shake-up. SSIH has certainly done better since the injection of aid and supervision from the banks. Its losses in 1981-82 were down to SwFr 34.9m from SwFr 142.4m the year before.

ASUAG over the same years turned a profit of SwFr 4m into a loss of SwFr 44m, and the losses for 1982-83 are expected to be greater.

The resulting merger should produce a company with resources of a work force of about 17,500 and turnover of SwFr 2bn to rival Japan's major company K. Hattori-Seiko.

In three areas it is planned to set up holding companies to counter specific weaknesses. The first will carry out the marketing, sales and assembly of finished watches. The second will concentrate on research, production and the sales of unmounted watches. A third subholding will be in charge of

the production of machinery for producing watch parts. (In the ASUAG group there are already some 20 companies doing this.) To some extent, this sort of restructuring would reinforce what has already been taking place. For example, ASUAG through its Ebauches subsidiary is the main supplier of components and watch movements for the domestic industry and exports. (Ironically, Hong Kong, a major rival, is an import recipient of such parts.)

An interesting exercise has been the marketing of the cheap (between SwFr 38 and SwFr 49 each) "Swatch" in Switzerland since March and in the U.S. with considerable success since December. As a typical tourist gift, it is now second only to the Swiss Army knife and ahead of chocolate.

It is made by the SSIH subsidiary ETA in Grenchen as an attempt to make inroads through its own fully-designed and produced model into the core of the market, in which Switzerland is comparatively weak. In June it was joined by the M-watch (sold in the Migros chain of stores and supermarkets). With the "Swatch", it would seem that demand has caused some surprises and outstripped supply.

Watchmakers on the higher end of the market, however, mutter darkly about the much-merited "Swiss made" reputation being used for the sale of cheap watches. But it is just that kind of attitude combined with the conservative view that Swiss quality was sufficient to survive inventions and experiments from other markets which has held back the exploitation of Switzerland's skills and productivity.

In the 1950s, quartz was first used in Swiss time pieces. But the market was left open to the Japanese to develop this "gag". The same happened with the electronic units. All the while its scientists and researchers have been working on inventions and improvements.

The quality and potential of the Swiss product is undoubtedly there. But with the world market shrinking this year, it is a hard time in which to launch a much-needed and deep-seated reform. But it is necessary if, as one FH official mentioned, if the industry is to survive.

For as the FH itself has forecast, the watchmaking recession has not yet finished. An end to the recession, it went on, could help watch exports, but in view of the delay, one cannot expect positive growth for 1983, rather at most zero growth.

conditions. The most important of these — apart from U.S. reorganisation—has been the divestment of CEM. In 1977, the French Government had called on Brown Boveri to dispose of this affiliate's successful activities in the sector of generation equipment to Alsthom-Atlantique. Although the Swiss tried to boost the "amputated" company by new operations in the civil engineering and electronics business, through rationalisations and capital injections, CEM continued to lose money.

By the end of last December, Brown Boveri decided the situation was hopeless and sold out everything except two small-motors factories to the nationalised concern. A new company now runs these plants, as well as looking after Brown Boveri's sales on the French market.

JOHN WICKS

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JOHN WICKS

## PROFILE: NESTLÉ

## Nestlé restores its purity

THAT epitome of the multinational company, Nestlé, is still in many ways very Swiss. The bulk of its business is conducted by the holding company Nestlé S.A., registered in Cham and Vevey; and despite steady decentralisation of marketing and product development, basic research, financial control and technical support remain ensconced on the shores of Lake Geneva.

The new management has discussed repatriating Unilever, the smaller holding company, which was set up before World War II under Panamanian registration as a precaution against German violation of Swiss neutrality. Unilever accounts for a dwindling proportion of American interests, but the tax cost of bringing it home is said to be prohibitive.

Its very Swissness seems to suit Nestlé well. Until the baby food controversy broke around its ears, the company had a kind of political and product purity that made it more successful than most multinationals in developing—and holding onto—interests in revolutionary socialist countries. As the baby food row abates, with lesson that Nestlé will not forget in a hurry, the company is again able to present itself as the politically neutral benefactor of nutritional progress in countries where dirt and disease prevail.

Swiss equity base

Like other Swiss multinationals, Nestlé has a predominantly Swiss equity base. Nearly two-thirds of the 2.9m voting shares are held within the country and are quoted on its local stock exchanges. These so-called registered shares are held by many farmers as well as institutions.

The other third, called bearer shares, are quoted both in Switzerland and on the neighbouring exchanges of Paris, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Amsterdam and Vienna.

The biggest shareholder, however, happens to be French: Mlle Liliane Belletcourt of L'Oréal has about 6 per cent of Nestlé, secured as part of the purchase by Nestlé of a minority stake in the Paris cosmetics company. Under Swiss law, the par value of shares is SwFr 100, which makes Nestlé's stock "heavy" for the small investor. At the same time, registered shares are reserved for Swiss investors which at times has caused the stock to look undervalued.

To overcome the problem, Nestlé 10 years ago issued non-voting "baby shares" worth a tenth of the voting stock. But the take-up has been poor and banks have been unwilling to deal with the certificates.

Nestlé is therefore abandoning this attempt to widen the spread of its shareholders, relying on a possible change in Swiss law to achieve the same result.

The erstwhile Anglo-Swiss management hegemony is being dissipated—not without complaints from some Swiss shareholders. Interestingly, too, the managers at Nestlé's farming subsidiaries are local, albeit schooled by headquarters at Vevey in the company's own ethos.

CHRISTIAN TYLER

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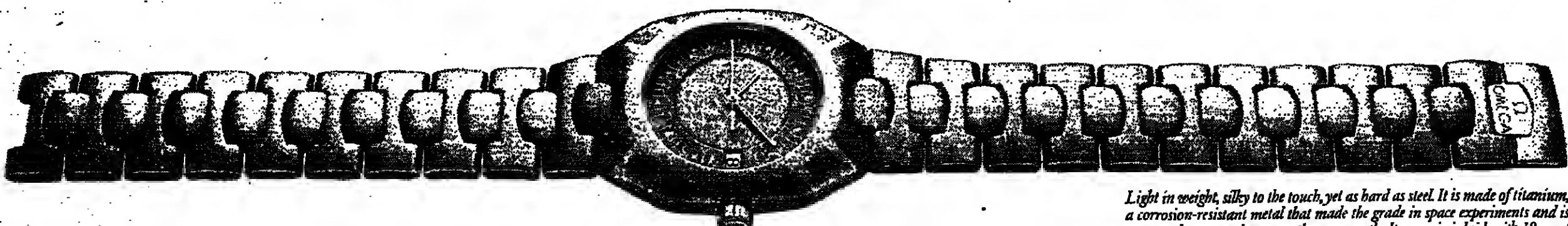
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# Trend is towards shorter stays

## Tourism

ANTHONY McDermott

CONSIDERING the world recession and the strength of the Swiss franc, tourism in Switzerland has held up well. Not surprisingly the record year of 1981 was not matched last year.

M. Jean-Jacques Cerey, president of the Swiss National Tourist Office (ONST) says 1982 will be "as good as last year or slightly better." This statement, made at the beginning of the summer, has been supported by later forecasts based on the first returns of the summer season.

Total tourist expenditure last year reached SwFr 13.9bn, a rise of 6.1 per cent over 1981, but these revised figures are misleading because they include the expenditure of Swiss nationals abroad and do not differentiate between spending by genuine tourists in Switzerland and by business people. The latter probably accounts for about 20 per cent of all spending.

The spending by the Swiss abroad rose by 10.3 per cent from SwFr 5.26bn in 1981 to SwFr 5.8bn last year. More significant are the figures for tourist spending in Switzerland, which rose marginally over this period from SwFr 7.84bn to SwFr 8.1bn.

Where this hits Switzerland is in the fall in the net balance. Last year it declined by nearly 11 per cent from SwFr 2.58bn to SwFr 2.3bn. M. Cerey is probably right when he calls this "not catastrophic."

Compared with other European countries, Switzerland's tourist industry has remained remarkably stable. The ONST annual report quotes the European Commission of Tourism as citing instances where expenditure in some countries have fallen by as much as 20 per cent. Shortened stays have become the rule.

ONST also points out that nights spent by tourists from Belgium, West Germany, France and the Netherlands, in the summer season of 1980 rose by 20.6 per cent. In the summer of 1982, this had become a fall of 16.8 per cent compared with 1981 which was itself virtually unchanged on the 1980 total.

Winter seasons showed the same pattern, but not so drastically. In the winter season of 1979-80 a rise of 21.9 per cent was recorded. In 1981-82 the fall was 10.8 per cent.

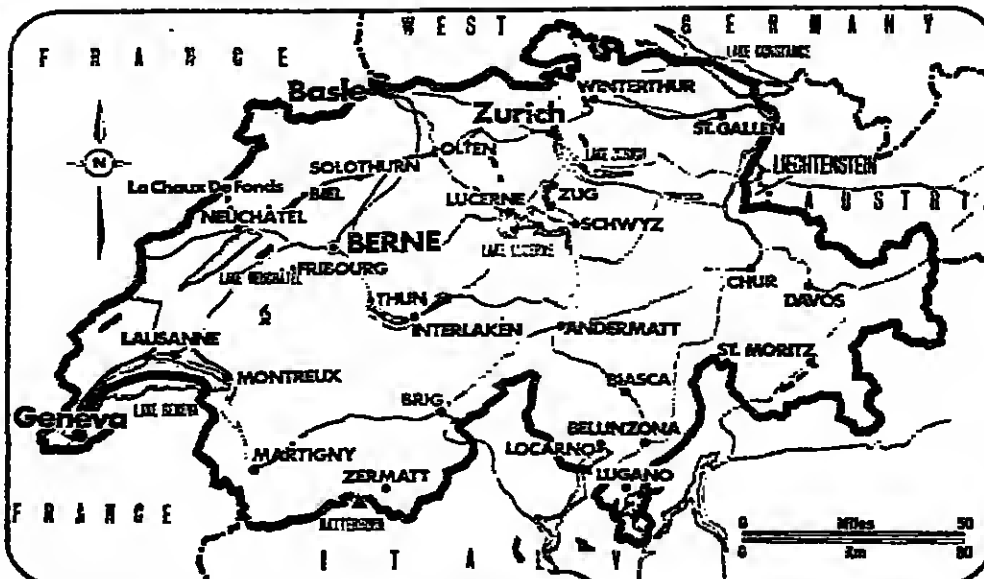
Nevertheless the contribution tourists make is important. The surplus covers more than 40 per cent of Switzerland's trade deficit. It provides something like 15 per cent of export receipts, and at the height of the summer and winter seasons provides employment for about 250,000 people out of a total work force of more than 3m.

Switzerland is, like others, exposed to the pressures of the world economic scene, but it has been more successful than most European countries in coping with them.

The nights tourists spent in Switzerland were down by 3.3 per cent from a peak of 79.07m in 1981 to 76.5m last year but this figure remained comfortably above the 70m mark which was passed for the first time in 1979.

The number of tourists fell off most noticeably from Switzerland's closest neighbours, West Germany, France, Austria and the Benelux countries. The numbers of tourists from the U.S. and Britain were markedly up. Indeed British loyalty to the Swiss skiing holiday was illustrated fully in the canton

# SWITZERLAND VIII



The grandeur of the Alps captured the imagination of Europe as early as the 19th century. Here a 19th-century artist makes fun of the early tourist boom.

of Valais, which boasts such resorts as Zermatt, Saas-Fee, Verbier, and Crans-Montana. British tourists almost doubled in the winter of 1981-82, and this trend was maintained this past winter.

Whether Switzerland will in fact do better this year depends in part on the West recovering from the recession. The indications of the first two months of this year have not been particularly encouraging. Tourist nights were down overall by 3.5 per cent.

The numbers of Swiss nationals holidaying—and they regularly provide more than half the clientele—fell off slightly, but the number of foreigners was down by as much as 7 per cent.

The restrictions imposed by President Mitterrand on the amount of money French tourists can take abroad is bound to have some effect, but less than expected. The French account for 8 per cent of tourist nights spent. When the measures were announced just before Easter there was a touch of hysteria in the response of the western, mainly French speaking part of Switzerland. Some restaurants had brave signs proclaiming that French wines were not being sold. But calmer counsels have prevailed.

As officials freely concede, "ways and means" have been found for getting round these restrictions. Above all, M. Mitterrand said during his official visit in April that these measures would be lifted at the end of the year. The tourist authorities await with interest to see whether the French economy will permit that. But they reckon the damage done will, at worst, be slight.

The Swiss tend to claim they have built their tourist industry on limited resources. This is not strictly true given the remarkable variety of the scenery you can choose broadly from three categories: the Alps, the lake areas and the main cities—and the diligence of those working for the industry, whether officials, hotel owners or waiters.

Despite the overall importance of the tourism industry to Switzerland, it is hard to talk of a national obsession. In August 1979 the Government did publish "The Swiss Concept of Tourism" which faithfully adorns the shelves of every regional office. But

## TOURIST NIGHTS

1970	61,430,000
1975	68,230,000
1979	67,325,000
1980	75,282,000
1981	79,072,000
1982	76,498,000

## TOURIST SPENDING

	1981	1982
Tourists in	SwFr	SwFr
Tourists in	7.84	8.1
Switzerland	5.26	5.8
Balance	2.58	2.3

Source: Swiss National Tourist Office

# Slow progress in joining the UN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

In a document dated December 1981, there is enshrined the need for membership. The obstacles lie hardly at all with the main political parties, though xenophobic parties and other groups representing the more outlying and conservative members of the Community have campaigned actively against UN membership. The real problem would seem to be one of educating the electorate itself about the ramifications of joining the world organisation.

Among the upper reaches of diplomatic and political circles there is a strong conviction that whatever the obvious and often debated limitations of the UN, Switzerland would be far better served by being in rather than out. But the final decision lies with the electorate in a referendum.

In short, the electorate has to be educated, albeit slowly. As Mr. Willi Ritschard, a long-serving cabinet minister said in a speech in April 1979 in Los Angeles: "Much explanatory work... has to come first. The traditional timidity of the

Swiss in the face of foreign affairs remains an impediment." The arguments advanced by supporters of Swiss membership such as the foreign minister, M. Pierre Aubert, and the ambassadors to the UN in Geneva, Franz Blankin, and Francois-Charles Pictet (since appointed ambassador to London), have now become familiar though not popularly accepted.

They point out that although Switzerland has derived much benefit from membership of most of the specialised agencies, it is excluded from the General Assembly with its increasing influence. Debates there, affecting Swiss interests, take place without Switzerland having a voice.

Observer status in the UN, now enjoyed only by the two Koreas, the Holy See, Monaco, San Marino, and a couple of liberation groups (in particular, it is pointed out in Bern with some disdain, the Palestine Liberation Organisation), is not what it once was. The idea that Swiss neutrality

# The aliens problem lingers on

SWITZERLAND HAS traditionally acted as a magnet for immigrants. Long years of neutrality and political stability, together with the country's remarkable post-war boom, have led to a permanently high level of foreigners in the resident population.

At the end of April, some 325,180 aliens were living in Switzerland—excluding seasonal workers, officials of international organisations and families and the total of more than 108,000 workers who cross the border to their Swiss jobs every day. This is equal to 14.5 per cent of the total population, a share exceeded in Europe only by Luxembourg.

The foreign presence in the labour market is considerably larger. Last year there was an average of 711,000 aliens at work in Switzerland (including seasonal and border-crossers), or about 23.5 per cent of the labour force. In sectors like the building trades and the hotel and restaurant business the share is much higher.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, foreign-worker policy suddenly became a major political question. The massive need for manpower in a rapidly-expanding economy brought the total foreign population up to 1,080,000 in 1970, as compared with under 585,000 in 1960 and little over 285,000 foreigners 10 years earlier.

The root-and-branch motion against "foreign infiltration" by Dr. James Schwarzenbach of June 1970, was accepted by no fewer than 48 per cent of the electorate, while at the following year's general elections the xenophobic parties Nationale Aktion and Republican Movement together booked a respectable 7.2 per cent of all votes cast.

That marked the peaking of the anti-foreigner reaction, though, and things have been cooling down ever since. The Government and Parliament were badly shaken by the popularity of the "Schwarzenbach Motion" and the nationalist Right-wing, so took steps to defuse the situation.

The granting of new work permits was cut back very substantially, to well below the natural flow of foreigners back to their own countries, and the tide began to ebb. By 1975 the number of resident aliens had started to show an absolute decline, which was to keep up for five years.

The tight controls on immigration by the Federal Council have succeeded in assuaging most of the public's fears in the past few years. The resultant net repatriation in the mid-Seventies also had the welcome effect of keeping Swiss unemployment levels down very low during the post-1974 recession. Support for the xenophobes' referendum motions fell off considerably, as did their presence in the National Council.

At the same time, foreigners have become much less evident due to the process of integration. With only a few newcomers, the share of aliens with domicile rights—which generally means at the very least five years' residence—has risen to more than three-quarters of the resident foreign population.

Simultaneously, a regular share of around 1 per cent of all foreigners have year for year been taking up Swiss nationality. This means that much less Italian, Spanish or High German are heard than a few years ago.

Integration will now be furthered by a decision of the Swiss Government to grant domicile rights to employed Italians after five, instead of 10 years of residence, as of the end of 1983. At the same time, dependents will be allowed to follow Italian workers into Switzerland after a work permit holder has been in the country for 12, rather than 15, months.

For all that, resentments are not far from the surface. At the

end of last month, the Nationale Aktion announced plans for yet another referendum.

Officially launched last month, and presumably due for the vote in or after 1985, this foresees a number of restrictions on immigration—including the holding of immigration to a level no higher than the preceding year's, a cut in the number of border-crossing employees and the removal of regulations permitting seasonal workers to gain residence permits after a certain number of years. This could mean a cut in the foreign population of 200,000 or more in 15 years—but the proposals have very little chance of being approved.

The Nationale Aktion

notched up a success last June, when it was one of the groups opposing a proposed new aliens law. This legislation, which would have meant some modest improvements in the lot

## Foreign labour

JOHN WICKS

of resident foreigners, was subsequently rejected by a majority of the electorate.

More recently, the xenophobes' "vigilante" movement was extremely successful in local elections in Geneva—which has a resident foreign share of no less than 30 per cent, or about 38 per cent after inclusion of international organisations' staff and their families. In April, the Nationale Aktion returned to the Zurich cantonal council after a four-year absence.

The Federal Council, Switzerland's coalition Cabinet, remains well aware of latent dangers. This is particularly so at a time when the alien population has once again risen to its highest level for six years—and this at a time when unemployment and short-time workings have, at least by Swiss standards, been unacceptably widespread.

In fact the recession has not passed the foreigners by. The number of foreign residents in employment is 1.8 per cent less than a year ago.

In what is at least a gesture, the Government has decided to release only one-half of the quota for new work permits for the period May 1-October 31 1983.

The other main problem involving foreigners is the so-called "selling up" of Swiss property to outsiders. Since 1961 sales of real estate to foreigners resident outside Switzerland have been subject to official approval. This has made little difference, though, with property worth over SwFr 16.3bn (\$7.5bn) changing hands over the following 21 years.

This is no longer quite the emotional issue it has been, however. Business fell off substantially in 1982, the result not least of recession and new tax rules in Federal Germany as the top buyer of Swiss property.

At the same time, the Federal Council has announced that it plans to reduce the number of holiday flats and apartments that can be sold to foreigners by some 20 per cent this year.

A tightening-up of overall restrictions on the massive sale of property should defuse the referendum motion for which the Nationale Aktion has collected the necessary signatures and is keeping on a back-burner. It seems unlikely that the resort areas will swallow everything without complaining though: almost one-half of all real estate sales in the 1981-81 period were accounted for by the Swiss—and this at a time when resort cantons Grisons, Ticino and Valais.

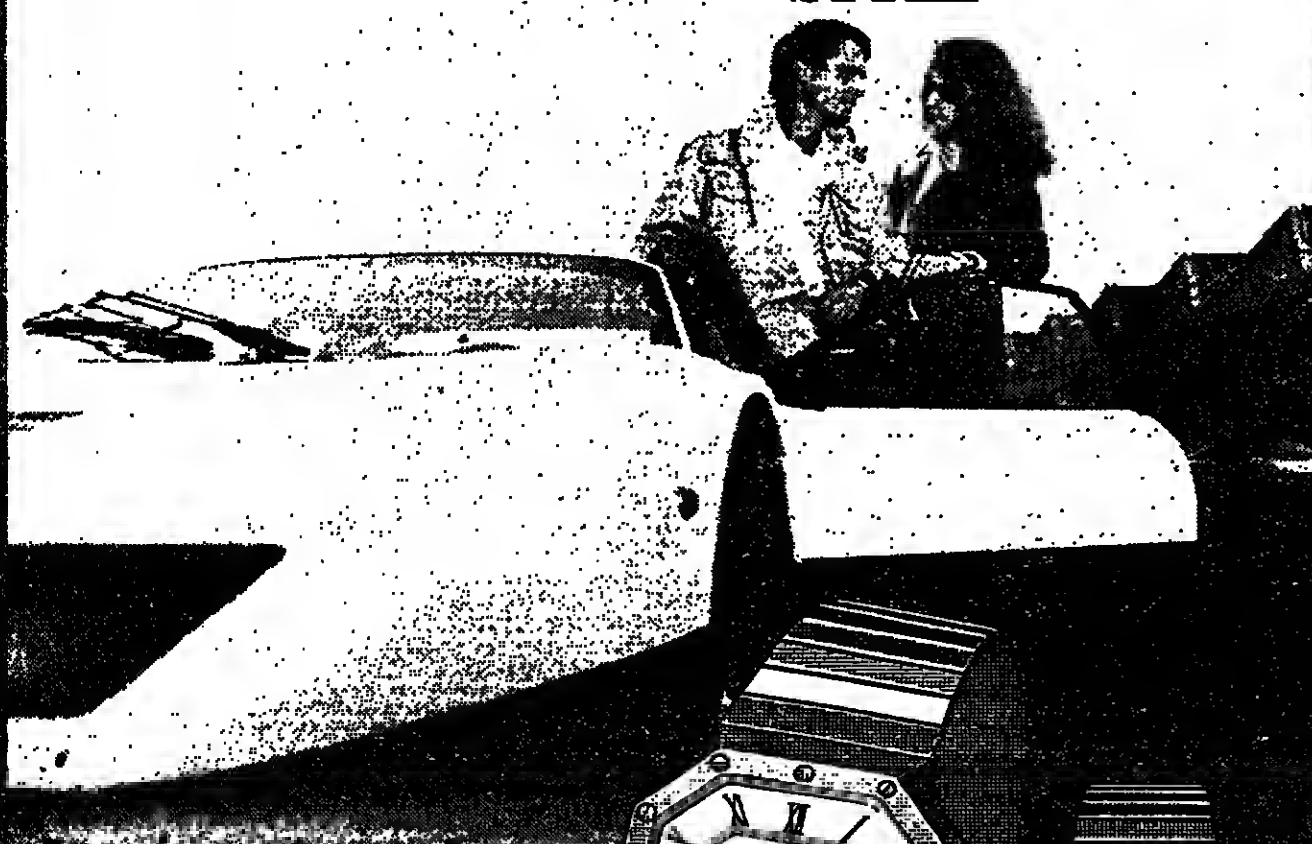
Whatever the case, the "Aliens Problem" is hardly a new one for the Swiss. In 1910, the share of foreigners in the resident population was 14.7 per cent—slightly higher than for 1982.

The Foreign Ministry and others may well be allied of public opinion, but this does not alter the fact that the final decision will be some time coming. This causes some concern. Why, some people ask, should Switzerland, after all these years of abstention, want to join the UN?

Others say that it would be far better to get the referendum over quickly—one way or the other.

The pro-UN camp hopes that delay will give more time for education. It hopes too that in the meantime, the UN will not pass judgments which add to existing prejudices against the organisation. The outcome of the referendum, whatever it comes, is in the balance. As one official said: "We need a couple of years. At present, our third is in favour, one third against, one third does not know."

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